HOMING IN ON ZERO HOUR

SPOTLIGHT ON ARAGONES

VOTE FOR NEW PUNISHER

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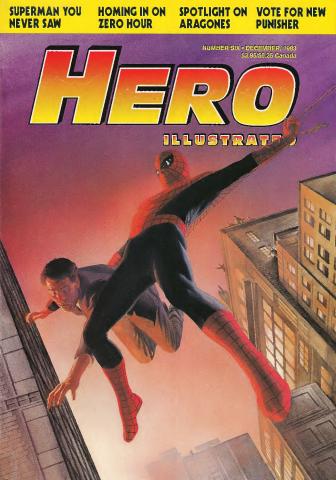
## FRO

ILLUSTRATE

## EXCLUSIVE!!! PITT COMIC INSIDE!

- HERO GOLD CARD CONTEST -YOU COULD WIN JLA #11
- · EXCLUSIVE VALIANT POSTER!
- · INSIDE THIS ISSUE: MIKE CARLIN, SERGIO ARAGONES, STEVE BISSETTE, DAN JURGENS, LOUISE SIMONSON & MANY MORE!

and much, much more!



## THE BIG BANG WAS JUST THE BEGINNING...

The secret origins of the Milestone universe and the super-powered beings who reside there have remained hidden in the shadows...



#### IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER...

HARDWARE #19

ICON #9

XOMBI #O

BLOOD SYNDICATE #10

STATIC#8

SHADOW CABINET #O



ON SALE IN NOVEMB

#### THEY GAVE HER THEIR HEARTS SHE RIPPED THEM IN TWO

SILVESTRI MARC

3

Ш

Ш

#### NOW IT'S PAYBACK TIME!

WILDC.A.T.S #5.CYBER FORCE #1.WILDC.A.T.S #6
CYBER FORCE #2.WILDC.A.T.S #7.CYBER FORCE #3
DON'T MISS THE STUNMING CONCLUSION TO

KILLER INSTINCT!

### WORD UP!



We receive an awful lot of letters at HERO ILLUSTRATED; a lot of them filled with praise and some of them not, I have read meny letters telling me how much they like the editorials in every magazine, and some that say I'm nuts.

Regardless of what you think of the editorials in this column and what I have cheen to write about, the print of the editorials to make people think about a subject. Take the time and think about what I'm seying here. You don't have to agree with what I'm seying here. You don't have to agree with what would make you discuis the topic with someone else or produy unto writing a letter to get something changed.

In that sense, what I am lalking about is 6 form of anarchy, taking 6 point end hoping that it will make e change for the better.

Everybody in this industry wents to put out better comes, with superior writing and superior artwork. Very few exhibers it, for a variety of reasons ranging from feek of talent, to leck of desire, to simple economics. The point of magazines, and editorials like this, is to highlight the good and try to improve the bed.

I wes party to a very interesting event this weekend of the Philadelphie Comiclest. It was the debast besteven Tadd McFarlaren and Peler Dovid. Now, I have been a debate judge before and have judged many other centests in my life and this one eccomplished nothing. The enthusisam was shere, but the centent was not. It was simply a back and forth battle of presanal opinions that didn't give organe cause to think. This could have been good for the industry, but I fear it was not. Next time, let someone else set the questions: the judges, moderator or the fans. Or simply yell at each other for an hour, either way it would have been more interessing, and thought provided.

#### -John Danovich Assistant <u>Publisher</u>

P.S. The above picture is me preaching the word of HERO at the San Diego convention and looking for converts. Praise be!



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test your skills in this fas game. Super Star Wars.



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ISSUE DECEMBER 1993 6



## CONTENTS

### **FEATURES:**

#### 68 WE ALL GOTTA GO SOMETIME

Can you believe it? There's talk that Marvel will kill off a popular character! Who'da thunk it?! Will the Punisher actually visit that great ammo dump in the sky? You will decide who may take his place!

#### 72 MARVELS ARRIVE ON EARTH!

The year's most eagerly awaited—and visually stunning—mini-series is here at last! Alex Ross and Kurt Busiek talk about Marvels, the story of normal people living in an abnormal universe.

#### 78 CREATING THE NEW SUPERMAN

Remember when we all thought Superman was dead? Four beings eventually assumed the Man of Steel's mantle, and Mike Carlin remembers those who didn't and did make the final cut.

#### 86 ZERO HOUR: THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

When DC tried to straighten out their continuity with *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, they had no idea of the headaches that awaited them. Editor KC Carlson and writer Dan Jurgens discuss their five-issue aspirin.

### **DEPARTMENTS:**

22 HERO NEWS

**32 HERO REVIEWS** 

46 UP AND COMING

**52 HERO INSIDER** 

**62** SPOTLIGHT ON: Sergio Aragones

92 READER COVER ART

100 GO FIGURE

**106 FROM PENCILS TO INKS** 

**112 HOLLYWOOD HEROES** 

**130** HERO HOT TOP TEN

**135 TRADING CARDS** 

149 PRICE GUIDE

## TAKE IT HOME!



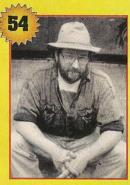
You may think we're over exaggerating, but we have every reason to believe that this issue is the single greatest contribution to the history of the written word since the dawn of Western Civilization! Of course, even if our claim is a tad premature, there are still plenty of reasons for you to read this issue! Before it's all over, you'll have a chance to win:

#### JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #1

You can also score over a dozen chances at other great comics throughout HERO's growing price guide in the back! Just look for the "blue pages!"

### CAN HE SWING FROM A THREAD...?

Take a look overhead: Though the world may mock Peter Parker it will soon marvel at the awesome might of Alex Ross, who took a break from Marvels to paint this gorgeous cover.



#### DRAINING THE SWAMP

From Swamp Thing—to Taboo—to Tyrant, Stephen Bissette tells all—and then some!



#### THE LEGION-THEN & NOW

Blast off into the past for a look back at the team of the future!

#### Dadaist Quote of the Month...

"You have stop, stupid! Learn to drive!!"

-A Philadelphia cab driver

# YES, You Can Take it Everywhere.

(Well almost...we don't suggest scuba diving)



little brother. After all, he's always spilling stuff on it and dropping it. It's only a matter of time before he totally destroys it. The Handy Gear's unique outer casing makes it little brother-proof. Plus, the Handy Gear's carrying strap goes around your neck to make sure he can't grab it without a fight. And it makes things easier when you're playing on the move too. The Handy Gear also has hot extras to make game play even better: 2x screen magnification for better visibility, adjustable screen protector to reduce glare, and inner storage for an extra cart. So seal up your GameGear™ and take it anywhere you want to go 'cause this is one game that won't get rained out.



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#### Without a Guide

Dear HERO

When I heard that HERO ILLUSTRATED was going to be a hot new magazing/comic price quide Liust had to get it After I finished reading it I noticed that there was no price quide or a Hero Gold Card, so I looked in the table of contents and it said that the price guide started on pg. 134. but I've only not 128 names. What happened? Is this a cruel loke or just a mistake? Did I waste my money? I hope not.

> - Shawn Doucet Denham Springs, LA

Sorry Shawn what you have there is the newsstand edition of HEROILLISTRATED Unfortunately, with that edition there is no price guide, or the neat nack-ins that come with the comic store version. My sureaestion is to find your local comic book store and look for the nalybarried version of HERO If you don't know where there is one close to vou. call 1-800-321-4376 and we'll give you the phone number and address of the nearest shons

#### Heroic Don Dale

Dear HERO. We are Tony and Joe from Mrs. Kovach's 2nd hour class at Pinckney Middle School. We encourage your readers to write us and send postcards to us. Our goal is to get postcards from every state P.S. We really like your mag. - Pinckney Middle School

2150 E. M-36 POR 7 Pinckney, MI 48169

Well. Tony and Joe, consider it done. We printed it, the rest is up to our readers, Beware, you might get a few from Canada and overseas as well.

We're glad you like the mag, and we're trying to give you more reason to like it every issue. By the way, our main guy John Danovich is a graduate of Pinckney's long-time rival Dexter



opinions coming and you may become a star in the pages of the new number one name in comics!

Letters To The Editor c/o HERO ILLUSTRATED 1920 Highland Aye: Suite 222 Lombard, JL 60148.

High Just call him Mr Small Town Americal

#### Bud-ding copywriter...

Wanna hear something funny? Younghlood-Bloodshot-This Blood's for You! Coming July

It's not funny? I don't think so either

> - Chris Colomon Rollivar TN

#### Bag-free zone

Dear HERO Waln here they are

My polybags 50 in all Your three-part article on comic storage was very intormative. As a result I've freed my comics from premature death by polybag My concern is will this hurt my ability to sell my books? Will a

buyer prefer some other person's polybagged book over my unpolybagged book? Doesn't the pack-

aging help sell the book? I've seen Superman #75 unpolybagged. Did I make the right decision?

P.S. How about a polybag contest? The most polybags sent in

> - Jerome Smith Staten Island, NY

Good idea. Send all your polybags to: DC Comics....Just kiddinal It's a sad fact that most of today's secondary market comics buvers demand that

comics and polybags must go together. To remedy your unfortunate situation, we suggest stapling or gluing the polybag to the cover of your comic when it comes time to sell.

#### Zoot Alors

To whom It may concern, In issue #2 of HERO, page 162 (Comics We'd Like to See), you

## A SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S TO COME!



### THE HEAVY METAL EYE OPENER ARRIVES IN DECEMBER

CENECIC



GAME GEAR



\*\*\* THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

## FROM THE

In Issue #2, we gave you the opportunity to ask questions from Marvel's living legand, so that the component of the component of

upcoming low-budget Fantastic Four movie. Witt any Marvel heroes ever possibly make it to the big screen with a big budget? (Jaspn Elkins, Hammond, Ind.)

#### Stan Lee's responses:

One question many readers have asked is, 'After all the previous low budget movies based on Marvel characters, when will we ever get a major. big-budget production that'll do our heroes justice?"

And the answer is: SOON! Even as you read these wondrous words, Jim Cameron (the genius behind Aliens and both Terminator movies) is planning to start a super-spectacular production starring everybody's all-time ning to start a super-speciacular production starting everyoder starting favorite friendly neighborhood Spider-Mani But that's not all! Columbia Pictures is preparing to do our Black Panther—starring Wesley Snipes! Also, Universal Pictures is having a



script written RIGHT NOW for a really big production of The Incredible Hulk! And let us not forget that 20th Century Flor is planning a gigantic X-Meh feature which we anticipate will be directed by Olck (Lethal Wespon) Oonner. In addi-tion, we have Blade, Vampice Hunter in the pipeline as Well as Luke Cage, Elektra: Assassin, Dr. Strange and Ghost Rider each and every one slated to be a BIIIGGG production!

So keep the faith, Believers—Marvel's on the move! We may not know where we're going, but we're on our way! The second most off-asked query is,.

Looking back over my career, is there anything I'd change, given the chance?

Actually, there's very little I'd want to change. I've enjoyed every minute of my years in comics, the greatest pleasure coming from the fantastically creative people I was fortunate enough to work with—som of the most talented artists, writers and editors you could strake a webshooter at.

Also, there's very little that can top the sheer pleasure of knowing that our work has brought some measure of enjoyment and thrills to readers for lo, these many years

or to, triese many years. But, perhaps the one thing I might have changed, had I though about it, is—I might have planned to come to Los Angeles sooner, because there are so many great movie, TV and animation projects for Marvel to do, and I sometimes wish we had been granted more of a head start:

Beyond that, I feel I've been one of the luckiest guys alive. I've had the privilege of being able to do the work I love, with people I admire, for the best group of tens in the world. Who'd want to change any of that?!! Because of the crush of letters, Stan was able to choose only two, which covered the questions he was most frequently asked in the other letters. Stan sends his apologies to the readers who did not have their letters answered. .



The Superman of Earth-Vegas turns up in Jerry Lewis #105.

have Superman's Pal Jerry Lewis, I have a comic similar to this. The Adventures of Jerry Lewis, in which Superman meets Jerry Lewis. Enclosed is a picture.

- John Roach Grand Terrace, CA

Yes...it's beginning to come back to me now. I believe that was the issue where Giant Turtle Jerry and Ace the Bat-Hound had a hilarious run-in with Prez and Brother Power the Geek. Adding to the shenanigans were special quests the Sea Devils and Matter-Fater Lad.

#### **Potpourri**

First ott, I'd like to address something from Issue #4. There was a letter that said this quy didn't want to have to open the bag on your magazine. For this, I have two comments:

1. Why don't you print his full address so I can find out where he lives and really hurt him? 2. Why didn't you give that letter to the "Psycho" department? Okay, I've got that off my back.

Now to my next grudge: the card section. Can't you guys take a hint? When someone (more like a lot of people) writes in and says they want better card coverage. why don't you listen? Have you ever heard of WildC.A.T.S.. Valiant Era, Marvel IV or even the Ultraverse cards? Are





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you guve (and gala) too lazy to go out there and do come work on finding the prices for them? I know you have a card magazine coming out, but what if some neapla don't want to buy it just to see eoma price listinga?

On a lighter note, how many name is CAPDS II I HSTRATED going to be? Did you say there ara going to be 18 tree cards in the first issue? By the way who's the creative genitie that came un with the great name for it? Why not II I JISTRATED CARDS?

Here's a special treat I'll rate vour manazine

Everything's good aveant lin & Coming (It'e boring) HERO Insider (I could barely understand anything ha eald in issue #4). Hollywood Horoga (I hate critice) and Powerpley (e carbon copy of Quartermann in FGM

Also the price guide needs haln. It'e ennoving to not have all the recant titlee in It (like Deathmate). The etructure of it and all that rot is just greet though So your magazine le an ovarall

10 (being the best).

- Jon Chase Lake Milton OH

P.S. If I see the words "med" or "zine" (other than in my letter pointing it out) again without the letter "a" connecting them. I will not buy HERO again.

Class is now in session. Jon. Answering your questions in order 1. See the next letter for our policy

on dealing with stranganess. 2. EVERY department here is a

psycho department. CARDS ILI USTRATED, to be out toward the end of November, will focus more on news and cool card stuff than pricas, It'll have pricas, but It'll also include naws, interviews with creators, reviews, previews, a Q&A section and other funky stuff Ernia, a littla gnome, was the craativa genius who came up with the name. See the next letter for datails.

According to HERO's valued sourcas with the Webster Dictionary people, the origin of the word "magazina"-takan from the Skidiee, an offshoot of the Celtic-was actually "szciena." which meant "glossy fourcolor publication containing ads and editorial that requires endless sleapless hours to produce by editors with few connecting brain synapses."

The Skidies word for the phrase "Have you seen?" was "Maen" and the most commonly used phrase hack in those haloung days of the 1130e was "Mana e exclana?" or "Did you check out the latest trach?" That's where the nhrase comes from: another valuable service provided by the hard-working HERO etaff

#### Doom Pa-Troll?

Dear HERO type people over there in I omberd:

I have purchased your first four mags and I still have yet to see who HERO is, is it a man, a woman a troll some sort of molecular abortgine? I don't know

It s/he is a troll I would like to ack a question. You know how about after a week or two bread gets moldy? Well, I think that trolls or their close relatives, whoever they may be come out of that hig hole in the wall, open the bread bag and spit on it to make it green while chanting their song of peace and prosperity for the wee folk. I would like to know if this is trus

Who is this HERO-type person? I really want to know so I can invite him/her over to have a reel ahindig or maybe play eome billlards. Maybe if HERO and that old dude with the purple het have It out, it could be at my house.

- Allan Chavkin Miami, FL

Frank Kurtz will bring the HERO troll over for a little billiards-n-burritos action a week from Tuesday. Please provide us with a pool stick to beat you with.

#### Final Word Rebuttal

Dear Michael Davis.

Your Finel Word column that ran In HERO #5 was one of the most offensiva displaya of "bad attitude" I've ever seen in print. You have no right whatsoever to utilize e social event hosted by Graphitti Designs to back up your racist accusations. In your commentary you eloquently use recism as a crutch to eupport any and all of the problems you axperienced at this year's San Diego Con. I'm sorry Michael, I know for a fact there were no racial



Dear HERO

Am I the only one aware of this? That the increase of comic book sales is directly linked to the increased nor ularity of country music?

Check this out; Wolverine looks a lot like Travis Tritt. most women in comles are just Dolly Parton wanabees, and speaking of Dolly: Harada's Fortress looks sus plejously like the Dollywood Amusement Park You guys might as well change your name to "Heroes of the Achy Breaky Line Dance."

I'm just sitting here wait ing for Conway Twitty to come back in four different unique and profitable life forms

Make Mine Nashville

Patrick Rocha Hudson Falls NY

Dear Patrick:

Stand By Your Comics! .-And we thought that the glut of comics was inspired by Disco. You've convinced us! Saddle up that mechanical bull, but same stompin' shoes on and grab a long neck. Dr is that pencil neck? Either way, chicks just love ... that Psycho Letter T Shirt when your doin' those disco/line dances:





## HERO LETTER ART

Every month, HERO offers valuable prizes for the most creative and original artwork that comes courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service! If you feel your art is worth it, step up and let us be the judge. Go for it!

3rd Place

WINNER

#### Outstanding ENTRIES







Conlay Philpoti Lansing, Mi



Robert Welch

Pawaukee, WI



Eric Jecobson Simi Valley, CA



#### 1st Place WINNER



2nd Place WINNER



Platinum

Bill Chen

Amy Newman Phoenix, AZ

Prem Ed.

Platinum

No. 5

Clio Lera

if you thought the fraebias for this month's winners were fine, wait until you see the swell gifts we've got locked up for the best Lattar Art naxt month! If you went an autogrephed Bone Trade paperback, send your masterpiece to: Letter Art

> c/o HERO ILLUSTRATED 1920 Highland Ave. Suite 222 Lombard, IL 60148

ovartonee regerding our perty's quest list end strongly doubt the other exemplee you citad were in any way recielly motiveted.

I must edmit, your ettack did catch me off quard. We've known each other e little too long to be throwing this eart of rubbish in my direction. We even talked end loked together the evening of our respective perties. I never expected to be held up es e glowing exemple of

"racism in comics." You have as much right to feel

hurt thet you end the Milastone group were not invited to the Graphitti Designs dinner es I would have for not being invited to the Milestone party. The only difference is I'm not moaning ebout not being invited end inferring recial motivations. We are both adult enough to realiza thet limited quest ilsts et social functions often mean that

you cannot invite everyone you would like. To draw a racial conclusion to such en occasion is utter nonsensa end rather childieh.

Yes Michael, there are recief inequalities in the comic industry as there are in the society wa're ell pert of, if you really wanted to help. you could start by being mora objective when lebeling the actions of other people. Commantary pieces like yours ere wey out of line



## SUCK UP TO HERO

Dear HERO

Holy Moly, reading your new magazine was like bein' hit in the ass by a bolt of tightning! It seems that I've waited my whole life (30 years) for the comic industry to come out with some really awesome fanzines, and now you've done it! Keep up the great work.

Ezra Welch Kensington, CT

Dear HERO

Your mag is top-noteir material, I must say I really enjoyed it. The promo cards and the ash-cans were great as well as the magazine articles. Keep up the awesome work.

-Mike Wojtkow. Mundare, Alb. Canada

To the Staff at HERO.

Although I'm sure you have heard this a million times before. I'm soling to bell you geal what a wonderful job your, edoing I am an avoid entire job your, edoing I am an avoid entire job your, edoing I am an avoid comic collector, and have been for several years now. To keep up with the latest in, comics I reliefe on the 'tipe and true Witzerf to keep me in-torrited. This was of pourse until cliscovered HERO ILLUSTRAT. ED. After a recommendation trom, the manager of The Great Escape in Louisville I aleoded to give it arty', and I loved It.

There are great articles and columns regularly in MERO and the features and interviews that aren't so regular make it even better. Add this to a tealistic price guide, an unbiased opinion ocomics, great reviews, infinite, confests, great prizes and a new and retreshing look at comics, and you have an up-and-coming supprocomplay that will change the comic industry forever.

-Jason Hester Louisville, KY and are not supportive of the racial equality policy you espouse.

I feel a public apology is in order tor your remarks, but will leave that to your discretion. For the benefit of the comics industry, I would like you to promise me just one thing: before you go out duck hunting next time, just make sure you take your damn blindfold off. Sincerely.

> -Bob Chapman President/Graphitti Designs

As always, we invite readers, both professional and non-professional, to comment on this or any topic.

comment on this or any topic.

On a side note, we don't want to take this topic lightly but...we weren't invited to either narty.

#### Theme of the Month

Dear HERO,

While tlipping through HERO's biggest stumbled upon HERO's biggest secret. After checking out issues #1, 2 and 4, I found that, with the exception of issue #1, all of the large covers in the price guide have a common theme. In issue #2 they all have either a five or an explosion. In issue \$3 they all teature some kind of sport and in #4 they all heve some sort of computer or cyborg. So do I get some kind of prize tor this detective work?

- Master D Boston Bar, BC, Canada

Yes. But you have to find out what it is, It's hioden in the pages of HERO ILLUSTRATED #6. Once we figure out who you are, we'll send it.

That's not the only thing we've hidden in these pages for fun either. Eagla-eyed tans have caught some others too. The crafty editors of HERO ILLUSTRATED have hidden all sorts of crazed things in the nooks and cramins of this map. It's sort of like a "what is wrong with this picture" issue, only it's every issue. As Todd McFarlana told us the other day, "I about peed my pants 10 times reading the latest issue" With a recommendation like that how can we no unmo?

So here's the daal. All the people that catch us at our own game and write in with what they've found in a particular issue will be antered into a drawing for a HERO T-shirt autographed by the entire staff.

#### Rating the Companies

Dear HERO,

I am writing to exho the words of Mike Richardson in your Final Word section. I started collecting communication in 1984 for it love of good stories and good art. I don't care whether it is a reprint or second print, so long as I raad a good story. Because of that, my collection is priceless. The day I do it for the money, it will be worthless.

HERO ILLUSTRATED: The Good: Is very good. Keep up the humor—Star Trek'n Love Boat, Jurassic Park novel and movia comparisons.

The Bad: Some Wizard Influence (Top 10). Come up with new sections.

The Ugly: Get rid of the envelope and tan art. I've seen enough of them in Wizard. Do away with the price guide, although I do like the individual issue reviews.

The How: Do what EGM does.

Expand Up and Coming to include three or four full pages of hot comics in the next month or two.

-Chin Yue Na

New York, NY

Final Word:

Sum, we came up with 115, Just Winning in the pages of HEN NEVES, but even we dish't think't would atten on so much that other people would by to out-do us! Okay, so maybe the "Tablob! Trash' is a bit much, and maybe showing the "Ball buster" tubbed him the wong way lest sous, but that so reason to go of the obey and and start claiming CHEFYTH'HOS is wrong!

We'll have our lawyers talk to your lawyers Tony, Toni, Tonee, and we'll see who is the REAL wrong one out there! By the way, nice tie. But it looks good on you. Realty.



8 HERMAN ILLUSTRATED



## AN INSIDE LOOK AT DECEMBER'S HOTTEST COMICS!

### X-MEN ADVENTURES: SECOND SEASON #1

THE ADVENTURES CONTINUE WITH A
BRAND-SPANKING-NEW SEASON! GET
READY FOR THE WEDDING OF JEAN
GREY AND CYCLOPS! AND ON THIS
BLESSED DAY, MORPH RETURNS FROM
THE DEAD AND CAUSES TURMOIL IN THE
LIVES OF THE X-MEN BY
IMITATING EACH MEMBER WITH HIS
MORPHING POWERS. ALL THIS AND MR.
SINISTER TOO! FROM THE X-PERTS,
RALPH MACCHIO,
ANDREW WILDMAN,
AND JEFF ALBRECHT.



### VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN #1 OF 3

VENOM'S LATEST ADVENTURE
IS FULL OF DEMONIC TRICKS
THAT ARE NO TREAT AS AN
ARMY OF SHRIEKING
DEMONS TERRORIZES
SAN FRANCISCO ON
HALLOWEEN NIGHT.
WILL VENOM BE
ABLE TO KEEP
HIS UNDERGROUND
FRIENDS OUT OF
THE DEMONS' PATH
OF DESTRUCTION?
GUEST-STARRING
MORBIUS AND DEMOGOBLIN!

WRITTEN BY BRUCE JONES WITH ART BY BOB McLEOD. FEATURES A CARDSTOCK COVER WITH GLOW-IN-THE-DARK DETAIL.



## FALL OF THE HAMMER 2099 CROSSOVER

THE FUTURE OF THE FUTURE HANGS IN THE BALANCE IN THE FIRST 2099 CROSSOVER EVER! THOR AND HIS FELLOW NORSE GODS RETURN TO EARTH! IMMEDIATELY, THE MASSES REJOICE FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR SAVIOR, UNAWARE OF THE GODS' TIES TO ALCHEMAX! ARE THESE GODS TRULY WHO THEY CLAIM TO BE? IT'S UP TO 2099'S INCARNATIONS OF SPIDER-MAN, THE PUNISHER, DOOM, THE X-MEN, AND RAVAGE TO FIND OUT! LANDING IN

SPIDER-MAN 2099 #16

RAVAGE 2099 #15

X-MEN 2099 #5

DOOM 2099 #14

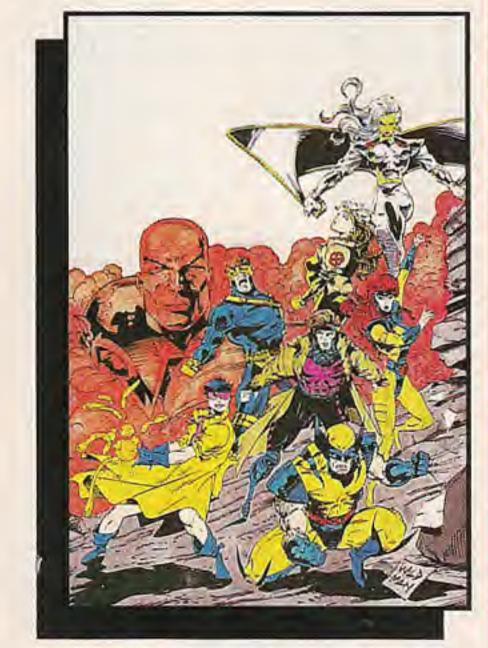
PUNISHER 2099 #13

SPIDER-MAN COMIC BOOK/ NEWSPAPER STRIP CROSSOVER

SPIDER-MAN: MUTANT AGENDA #1 OF 3

IT BEGAN IN THE NEWSPAPER STRIP IN DECEMBER BUT NOW THE FIRST ISSUE OF MARVEL'S PART OF THE CROSSOVER IS HERE! EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE WEB-HEAD AND THE BEAST TAKE ON THE HOBGOBLIN AS THE BRAND CORPORATION REVEALS ITS NEW MUTATION PROJECT TO AN UNSUSPECTING





## X-MEN ADVENTURES TPB

AS X-MEN ADVENTURES

ENTERS ITS SECOND SEASON, MARVEL IS
REPRESENTING ISSUES ONE THROUGH FOUR FROM THE
PREMIERE SEASON! SEE THE X-MEN'S FIRST CLASHES WITH
THE SENTINELS AND MAGNETO! WITNESS THE DEATH OF AN X-MAN!
FACE IT: YOU'VE GOT SOME MAGNIFICENT MUTANT MASTERPIECES IN
YOUR MITTS! AS ORIGINALLY PRESENTED BY RALPH MACCHIO,
ANDREW WILDMAN, AND ROBERT CAMPANELLA.









### Toy Conglomerate Compiled by Joe Funk Mattel Inc. and Fisher Price Inc. announced a

### Youngblood Animated On Way

#### Should hit the airwaves in late 1994

horse Pokey, will star in a Don't Tell Homer Watch or rather listen for the quest voices of Kathleen Tumer and

elastic oreen character Gumby, and his faithful

memer that will make

Mattel an even more formidable industry player. Gumby-Wood? Everyone's favorite

Winona Ruder in episodes of The Simosons this season

Billion Dollar Dino's Jurassic Park recently passed the \$1 billion mark in movie ticket sales and promotional tie-ins.

PR Geniuses The NFL's L.A. Rams cheerleaders have agreed to become spokeswomen for Image

The hall books of October, secording to Capital City

. Uncanny X-Men #207

2. Gambit #1

3. Snewn #17 4. X-Men #27

5. X-Men 2099 #3

6. Cyberforce #1 7. WHdC.A.T.a #5

8. Satman #502

Avengera #889 X-Men Unlimited #3

Rob Liefeld will be the first of the Image creators to bring his characters to life in a Youngblood animated series. Liefeld, in conjunction

with newly formed animation company

Roustabout Productions. will retain the rights to his characters and stay personally involved throughout development of the series.

Nick Dubois, creative director and co-founder of Roustabout along with Alan Zegler and Victor Dal Chele, said his team is elated to be working with Liefeld, "We'd like to emulate the creator owned concept that Rob and Image popularized in the comic industry. Our animation projects will not be influenced by noncreative management."

"This is a much more comfortable fit for me." Liefeld added, "I relate to these guys as artists. What they're doing in animation is exactly what we did in

comics-breaking from the corporate structure to master their own destiny. They're very familiar with the Youngblood characters and are very excited about making this the

event of the '94 /'95 conson "

According to Dubois. the Younghlood series will be more influenced by live action rather than other animated series. "Although the X-Men and Batman animated series are extremely popu-

lar, they're also

a little bit too heavy and Watch for Badrock and the Boys late next year.

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dark. We want to make the Youngblood series lighter both literally and figuratively by using brighter colors and incorporating tongue-in-check

Dubois mentioned Die Hard the first Superman movie, and the lack Kirby action/adventure comics from the '60s as examples of the type of action/ adventure/humor they are shooting for.

Dubois and Liefeld hope to have a two minute preview of the series ready by Christmas.



Vogue



Die Hard

#### **BATTLE OF** TITANS NO BIG DEAL

With all the hype surrounding the event, you might have expected Don King and Michael Buffer to show up when Peter David and Todd McFarlane squared off in their debate in

Philadelphia, October 8. Instead, what fans got was much ado about nothing as David launched a mean spirited attack and McFarlane donned a pair of yellow polka-dot boxer shorts and digressed repeatedly on many of the issues.

This man who claims he guit Marvel Comics because 'he gets no respect,' is well known for pushing and shoving people or calling them condescending nicknames like Petey or Johnny. Now if you think that's funny, go ahead and laugh. And if you also think it's funny that he slams creators who trusted Image to do right by them, laugh at that too," David argued.

McFarlane, for his part, said "As for me being a writer, that's not much of a debate. That's like me being a baseball player and Peter a football player and me saying he can't hit a curve ball. I'm an artist first, and a husband. People have a tough time separating Todd the artist from Todd the writer but we are, in essence, two separate people."

Although it didn't really accomplish anything, the amount of recording equipment used to cover the debate is evidence that this sort of forum does generate publicity.



this month for his dismal debut on late night TV. Yes, Chevy was funny on Saturday Night Live, Yes, Chevy has been funny in some of his feature films. But NO. Chevy is not good at interacting with other celebrities or responsive wit, which is the meat of late night talk shows.

#### MALIBU SET TO LAUNCH NEW COMIC LINE

The influx of big names continues at Malibu Comics, where a new line of creator-owned comics. entitled Browura, is being readied for a January debut.

"These are creatorowned comics the way they should be done," Malibu's creative director, Tom Mason said, "We're fortunate to have some of the industry's top talent returning to what they do best-letting their imaginations run wild in a way that's sure to please both creator and audience.

Some of the names that have signed on to create books under the Bravura banner are: Dan Brereton, Howard Chaykin, Steven Grant, Dan Jurgens, Gil Kane, Walter Simonson and Iim Starlin.



### You'll FLP PREVIEWS!

PREVIEWS will send you head-over-heels with every issue for 1993 filled with new regular features between two spectacular covers.

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- PREVIEWS Presents: Exclusive comics sneak-previews!
- PREVIEWS Interviews, starring top creafors and personalities in comics and beyond!
- Marvel Highlights
   32 powerful pages packed with indispensible information from the House of Ideas!
- Valiant Spotlight
   News of the New Era in comics!
- The DC Classic Cover Gallery!
- Full-color Gems
   of the Month!
- Advance information and convenient ordering for the latest in comics and collectibles!



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the first (and last) word in comics, no matter how you look at if. Comprehensive, colorful, collectible—and available at fine comics there is the collectible.

shops everywhere!



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#### **NEW CHARACTERS** IN BATMAN: THE ANIMATED SERIES

Continuing its strong momentum from last season, new episodes of Batman: The Animated Series have enough twists and turns to keep viewers tuning in for the new crop of episodes.

Some fresh characters that will appear in the new season are Jonah Hex. Batman's nemesis Azrael, Ra's Al Ghul (pictured at right), and Baby Doll (pictured below.)





ANNOUNCEMENT: We've GIVEN UP! No one has claimed the Amazing Spider-Man #1 grand prize from HERO #1! So now we will begin drawing from our "Second Chance" entries to get rid of this book. We don't want it! Keep an eye on this spot for details.



#### BEWARE! FAKE **FOIL BATMAN** FOUND! Although DC Comics

has denied its existence. HERO has managed to acquire a copy of a bogus Batman #497, According to DC's Patty Jeres and the DC

legal department, there has never been a copy of Batman #497 with gold foil ever pro duced.

HERO



copy of this bogus book from a concerned retailer that couldn't find info on it.

The fake enhancement was very poorly done with a photocopy of the black & white outer sleeve having bad gold foil placed over the DC bullet logo and the Knightfall logo. The foil is very spotty and the cutout is poor. If any other copies of this book appear, DC has requested that they be turned into DC or destroyed.



#### HISTORY

1939: Fawcett's answer to Superman, Captain Marvel, says "Shazam!" Comics #2

1946: Robin the Boy Wonder isn't given his own book, but he is given the cover of Star Spangled Comics #65

1950: For many, the end of the Golden Age is signalled by the final issue of All-Star Comics #57. marking the last adventure of the JLA,

1959: For many, the benchmark of the Silver Age: the formation of the Justice League of America in The Brave and the Bold #34

1962: America's tavorite wall-crawler gets his own book; Amazing Spider-Man #1

1965: Planet Eater and his herald. Galactus and the Silver Surfer, appear for the first time in Fantastic Four #48

1970: Jack Kirby's Fourth World begins with The New Gods #1 and The Forever People #1

1982: Jason Todd, the second Robin, debuts in Batman #357

1982: The second mutant book is launched: The New Mutants #1

> BY MIKE TIEFENBACHEH













#### ... HEAD NEWS ... COMPANY ROUNDUP.

#### MARVEL

As 1993 has shaped up to be the "Year of Death" in comics, Marvel has plans to kill off yet another character.

The stage is set in Thor #475. Thor will get his sanity back and Loki, his evil half brother, is coming back from the dead where he struck a deal with Mephisto to steal Thor's soul.

In the ensuing battle. Beta Ray Bill eats dust. This concludes the fourpart story dubbed, "Blood and Thunder." Tom Grinberg is the artist and Ron Marz is writing.

In other Marvel news. those who were able to attend the Philadelphia Comic Fest got a glimpse of the beautiful Fleer X-Men Ultra trading cards.

The cards will debut early next year and feature original artwork from such well known artists as Bill Sienkiewicz, Jim Steranko, Julie Bell, Glenn Fabry and Dan Brereton.



#### DC CONNCS

The Legion of Super-Heroes will get a facelift after their epic battle with Glorith in issue #53. Continuing the "Death" trend, one of the team's

members goes down and several others have been strangely altered. Upon their return to home base on Talus, they find them-



selves ostracized by the citizens who think they have become traitors. To survive, the Legion must go underground and adopt new codenames and identities and fight for redemption.

#### MAGE

San Diego-based Homage Studios has delayed the moving of their offices until after New Year's Day. The fastgrowing studio is reportedly moving into more lavish, ocean-side digs.

#### DEFIANT

Marvel Comics' motion to prevent Defiant from using the title Warriors of Plasm was denied at a court ruling in New York September 30.

The lawsuit charging trademark infringement was filed by Marvel in August, alleging that the name Warriors of Plasm infringed on Marvel's trademarked name,

#### Plasmer.

Jim Shooter, president and editor in chief of Defiant said, "This is a clear-cut vindication of our position in this case. We knew we had not infringed upon their title."

#### SHRGE

DC Comics, in conjunction with England's Fleetway Editions, has a second crossover on the way starring Batman and Judge Dredd-Britain's most popular comic book hero. Judge Dredd and





Batman will square off in Batman/Judge Dredd: Vendetta in Gotham.

#### SKYBOX

The Brooke Group, the finaucially strapped parent company of SkyBox International, has recently begun offering shares of SkyBox stock for sale.

#### MDDNDDG'S

Gary Colabuono, owner of Moondog's chain of comic and pop culture shops, was named "Retailer of the Year" at the San Diego ComiCon.

#### It's just Wrong

Livin' large or what? This is the harsh reality of what can happen to even the greatest of superheroes after a career of living lavishly in a mansion, running around with a boy hat his age, and playing with all sorts of exotic toys. "I'm storing extra

fat for my expedition to Antarctica where I hope to nab the Penguin in his lair," the



masked figure replied. Yeah, right. Doesn't he realize the ice there is only three mlies thick in some places?





# 

#### Frank Kurtz



Frank is often found pretending to be Ulysses S. Grant in Disney's Hall Of Presidents, Shameful,



A serious Trekker, Rob. exbrain surgaon and rock star. spends his time looking for a cure for floating heads, Wenbern

Former Brazil mud wrestling champion, Brian likas to relax by climbing tall buildings in bunny slippers.

#### Grenke



Scouting the city's mass transit systems. Scott keeps busy by fighting crime with his "scum blaster". sterv Fan Bov



Mystery Fan Boy likas to pelt small children with yucky black Ju Ju Bees, He tooks suspiciously lika a rabbit.

#### **FINAL GRADES**

are's how resent conics rate according to our reviewers no a scale of	A. T.		No.	The state of
nne to too. Batman/Houdini	3	10	8	8
SANDMAN 55	8	-	8	10
FIREARM 1	-	7	8	8
SUPS:SPEEDING BULLETS	8	8	8	8
STREETS 2	7	-	8	8
X-FACTOR 98	5	8	-	4
OUTSIDERS 1 $\Omega$	-	4	0	3
INCREDIBLE HULK 411	7	9	8	8
BLACKMASK 1	8	6	8	8
SAVAGE ORAGON 4	7	8	7	5

in A Flash: Bruce Wayne is fighting crima back in 1907, and this time he's paired with Harry Houdini against vampires and cannibals kidnapping children.

Is It Worth It: This is one of the more pleusible Batmen what

If-type storylines. Batman has been called tha greatest escape artist in comics (next to Mr. Miracle), so the appeal of a confrontation with Houdini was inevitabla. The dark painted style of this book fits the shadowy mood extremely well, and the story contains enough plot twists to keap us interestad cover-to-cover. The vampire vil-

fains are done with style and less supernaturalism than in the Batman/Dracula story. Everyone is in character, ranging from the headstrong reporter Victoria Vale, to the reserved playboy Bruce Wayne, from the theatrical escape artist. Harry Houdin! to the boisterous Tom Mix. The black Alfrad was a little surprising, but again, the story sticks to the time frame very well. My only hope is that these Elseworlds keep up this kind of quality, because I would like to see many more of these imaginary tales, although different

characters should be used.

The Good: Good writing combinad with moody art made this one of the best Batman stories on the market, and we nead more good Batman stories if the current storyline of Batman and Detectiva gets eny worse.

The Bad: One of the next Fiseworlds stories is, what if Bruce Wayne was chosen by Abin Sur to be Green Lantern, Holy flickin' brain wads. what next? Are we aventually going to have to see how Batman would turn out if he was stuck on Paradise Island? Too scary for words. Robin.

The Ualv: The Joker's breath after his cannibalistic dinner. Bon appetit,

- Rob Holly



#### FACT-FILE

Publisher: DC Issue Reviewed: Writer: H. Chavkin/J. Moore Painter: Mark Chiarello Cover Price: \$5.95 Prestige format Enhancements: Other Notes: An Elseworlds tale. Other Elseworlds with Batman include Speeding Bullets. Gotham By Gaslight. and Holy Terror.





#### **MARSHAL LAW:** SECRET TRIBUNAL

#### FACT-FILE

Publisher:	Dark Horse
Issue Reviewed:	#1
Writer:	Pat Milis
Artist;	Kevin O'Neill
Inker:	Kevin O'Neill
Cover Price:	\$2.95
Enhancements:	Card stock cover
Other Notes:	Part 1 of 2

In A Flash: Marshal Law is teamed up with gaudy heroes to protect a Legion of Supar-Heroes-type group from some alien monsters

is it Worth it: People either tend to like Marshal Law's sarcasm about superharoas, or they just don't gat it. I think those who don't appraciata him are the type who take comics way too seriously. I love his take offs, with parodias of the LOSH and the Alien movias all rolled into this ona, if you have never read the Lawster, this is a good issue to start with, since he's not in the middle of a multi-part epic. The Good: Marshal Law in kick-butt action once more! The Bad: The good Marshal comes

out way too infraquently. The Ualy: Chock full o' phallic sym-

bals. Not for kiddles (covar says sol) - Rob Holly



#### ROBIN

#### FACT-FILE

Publisher:	DC
Issue Reviewe	d: ·
Writer:	Chuck Dixor
Artist:	Tom Grummet
Inker:	Scott Hana
Cover Price:	\$2,95, Direct ed
Enhancements	s: Embossed
	Foil cove
Other Notes:	First Robin in his own
	ongoing series

In A Flash: Bobin takes off on his own after being cast aside by Jean Paul Vallay, a.k.a. the new Batman. Is it Worth It: Robin is wall done in this book. The character is finally fleshed out and has a some personality. It has good action and he has a cool car (Tov?). To me, the art was the best, I love whan Grummett draws any teenage superheroes. A Robin/ Superboy team-up by Grummet would be fantastic. For now, the whole book is great. If they develop the characters mora this book will last a long tima. The Good: The art is great and tha story is cool. I'd like to sae more teenage superheroes lika Robin & the Legionnaires.

The Bad: If they run out of ideas for Robin, it will run into the ground. The Ugly: Suparheroes dating.

#### - Brian Wenberg





Publisher: Marvel Issue Reviewed: #6 Writer: Jim Starlin Artist: Kris Renkewitz Inker: Pat Redding Cover Price: \$2.00 Enhancements: None Other Notes: Part 6 of an eight issue mini-series. Also part 3 of 13 part Blood And Thunder story line.

In A Flash: Pip and Maxam go bar hopping. Adam seeks out Thor to ald him and consequently puts Thor in Adam's debt

is it Worth it: Just Barely, This Issue is fairly quiet and has some effectiva. character intaraction, but with all tha Interruptions from crossovars, this titla has no identity of its own, no direction, and no two consecutive issues can be read without reading five other books (which are equally disrupted and confused).

Tha Good: Warlock's charactar-he's the original anti-hero!

The Bad: This whola sarias is radundant and unnecessary. The Ugly: A limited series which is an

Infinity Crusada crossover, a Blood And Thunder crossover and a Warlock And The Infinity Watch crossovar.

- Scott Grenke

#### EAT. SLEEP.





#### MS. MYSTIC

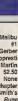
#### FACT-FILE

Publisher: Continuity Issue Reviewed: Vol. 2 #1 Writer: Peter Stone Artist: Dwayne Turner Neal Adams/Turner Inker: Cover Price: Enhancements: None Other Notes: First Issue of this monthly title to

come out this year.

In A Flash: Ms. Mystic is drawn to a wrecked space craft on Saturn and is captured by an alien bounty hunter. is it Worth it: This is was one of the hardest comics for me to read. The dialogue was a labor to get through and the story was a take-off of Predator. If the story was a bit more original and the dialogue not so wordy, could have liked it, I have never read Vol. 1, and a recap of Ms. Mystic would have been helpful to a newcomer to the book like myself. The art is the only redeeming quality. It grabbed my attention and kept me interested to the end. In my opinion, It is not worth \$2.50.

The Good: Butt shots acienty. The Bad; Unoriginal and wordy, Who is Ms. Mystic? The Ugly: The last scene.



#### SLUDGE FACT-FILE

Publisher: Malibu Issue Reviewed: Writer: Steve Gerber Artist: Aaron Looresti Gary Martin lnkor\* Cover Price: Enhancements: Other Notes: Includes a chapter of Windsor-Smith's

- Brian Wenberg in A Flash: A corrupt cop is shot down, dowsed with chemicals, dumped in a sewer and becomes a heap of black goo. Is it Worth It: Steve Gerber is back He's created another gooey, heap of a man-monster through which he can analyze the real world. This time. though, the guy has a brain, even if he is a bit messed up. It should be interesting seeing how far he goes down the tubes as his brains get more addied. Here, rather than simply burning from his touch, Sludge grabs you and messes up your flesh like Silly Putty. I look torward to turther issues. The Good: Good art and story. The Bad: I'd like to see Gerber cut loose without the Ultraverse. The Ugiv: That street gang...good lord...gasp...choke...

#### - Frank Kurtz



#### **CEREBUS**

#### FACT-FILE

Publisher: Aardvark-Vanaheim Issue Reviewed: #174 Writer: Dave Sim Artist: Dave Sim Inker: Gerhard Color: Nover Cover Price: \$2.25 Enhancements: None Part 24 (Concludes Other Notes: Book Two) of Mothers & Daughters

In A Flash: Astoria and Cerebus (and a surprise quest) are reunited for a showdown with Cirin, whose support has eroded considerably of late. Is it Worth It: Sim is one of those storytellers who's got command over his characters (which makes sense, since he created them). He's also got a sharp sense of drama and pacing, and an understanding of the value of silence (an undervalued skill these days). The Good: Sim's jab at the comic

book scene, when Swoon (his dead-on parody of Sandman)'s other personalities cause him to literally burst open. The Bad: This might not be the best time to start reading the book. The Ugly: Cirin deals with a would-be assassin by playing "I'm crushing your

head! I'm crushing your head!"

- Steve Darnall

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# **TANTALIZING** STORIES

# FACT-FILE

Publisher: Kitchen Sink Issue Reviewed: Writer/Artist: Jim Woodring/Mark Martin Woodring/Martin Inker:

B&W Color-Cover Price: \$2.50 Enhancements: None Other Notes: Final issue.

**GUEST REVIEW** 



Is it Worth It: Frank is the best comic going, Like Jean Cocteau, Woodring understands that the fantastic works when made concrete. The dreamscape in Frank comes alive in the details. There is more tear, mystery and pure joy in this strip than in all of Marvel's output for the last 15 years, Martin's goofy, comball Montgomery Wart is the perfect counterpoint to Woodring's exacting work. The Good: Allhough this is the last issue. Martin is doing new projects. The Bad: I have to wait e while for the next chepter of Age of Reason. The Ualv: Those creatures in the cases!

- Hilary Barta



# P. A. MER

# FACT-FILE

Publisher: Marvel U.K. Issues Reviewed: Writer: Glenn Dakin Penciler: Pascual Ferry Inker: Cover Price: Enhancements:

Other Notes:

Sean Hardy \$2.50 Polybagged w/4 trading cards Part 1 of a 4-issue

mini-series.

In A Flash: A tailed experiment by MvS-TECH's Dr. Oonagh Mullarkey creates both e 100% Good and 100% evil version of herself. is it Worth it: This is the same concept as the Infinity Trilogy, which han-

dled it far more comprehensively. The 100% in either moral direction becomes a walking stereotype with nothing to back it up, much less hold interest. Any actual plot is lost amidst the good side's saccharin dialogue. The lawsuit with Defiant is settled, end the jury finds Plesmer guilty on ell counts of failure to entertain. The Good: "Captain Kerosene," a WWII Humen Torch stand-in.

The Bad: Makes even less sense if you're not familiar with Marvel UK. The Ugly: "Oonegh?"

# TALES OF LETHARGY



# FRCT-FILE

Publisher: Alpha Productions Issues Reviewed:

Creators: Greg Hyland Steve Remen John Milgiore Cover Price: \$2.50

Enhancements: Other Notes:

None It's not N.A.R.M.

# - Mystery Fan Boy

In A Flash: Parodies of familier types like that wacky Punisher. is it Worth it: These guys ere funny. The first story concerns the Guy-With-A-Gun and a series of bizarre dreams (you know it's e dream because G.W.A.G. is in his underweer). Insults ebound like there's no tomorrow. It only "senous" comics were like this for real. The Him strip kills and approaches just plain coolness in looks and a really on-target homage to Twin Peaks that is appropriately creepy. Both features abound with loads of references to junk culture outside of comics culled from the "real world."

The Good: That photo of the Lethargic crew with Velentino in the Letheraic Comics Tent.

The Bad: Dark Him.

The Ualv: Echh, it's a monkey orl. - Frank Kurtz

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It's the year 3027. It Constitutes the year 3027. It is not year 3027. It is n

strategy con ensure victory. Use your missiles, cannons, lasers and jumpjets wisely if you expect to defeat your crafty faes. Your reward? More money to build more powerful 'Mechs. critical to

campleting your ever more

complicated missions.

Perched in the cantral room of a 60-ton 'Mech, incredible 3-D graphics allow you to command the action. Use the practice mode and

save game features to jump stroight into the action. Whether you choose instant action or the rewords of on entire cambat career, it's sure to make you sweet bullets. It's Mechwarriar.

# WARRIORS OF PLASM

# FACT-FILE

Publisher: Defiant
Issue Reviewed: #3
Writer: Jim Shooter
Artist: David Lapham
Inker: Mike Witherby
Cover Price: \$2.95 (yikes)

Other Notes:

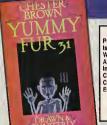
Printed on supersilck paper that reflects a light source back at you unless you juggle the book around like a mental patient. In A Flash: Culture shock on an inter-plane. land lovel are a conven of enhanced Earth folk come to princ with the whole Place thing to it Worth It: Only if you're willing to actual. buelt drawn and read it. This is not one of those havet here it and sit on it previous for a wind-fall down the line type of books. What we've not have is a story intensive comic that damands a hit more from you than most of the curk-scan product currently olution the market in other wards if you want to have your intelligence insulted you'd best look elsawhere. The gang over at Defiant have not their money where their mouths are and produced a comic book that rawarde ciona randina

The Good: Clean, no-nonsense storytelling makes for a nice solid read.

The Bed: Fumbling my way around the Plasm-slang. A glossary might be nice.

The Utiliz. Third nane middle intuision.

- Keith (Trencher) Giffen



# YUMMY FUR

Dublicher Drawn & Ouartarly Issues Reviewed: #31 Chester Brown Writer Artlet-Chester Brown Inker: ditto Coloriet N/A Cover Price: \$2.50 Enhancements: Mone to A Flash: An untitled story about Chaster's eweetheart and another een. ment of his re-teilling of the Gospals (this month: Matthew 9:31-10:42). is it Worth it. Absolutely The selfcontained love story is truly touching. and makes not only a good starting point for new readers, but a really unlifting counterpoint to his previous story line, which was excellent, but very disturbing. Brown's straightforward version of the Gospel has long heen a fascinating back-up feature The Good: Chester's in love. The Rad: Not the stories themselves although I'd love to see them on a better quality paper someday. Thay

deserve it.

The Ugly: The obligatory nose picking, and eating scene.

- Mystery Fan Boy

in A Flash: Arthur Dent is saved from the earth's destruction by his good friend Ford Prefect who is actually a field reporter for the Guide. Is it Worth It: If you've never read The Hilchhiker's Tillogy (now up to five books), then you may be amused by this series. If you have read them. however, you won't like this adaptation. It's like when you read a tarrific novel, and they turn it into a movie. What is always said? "I was sooo dis annointed with the movie. The book was soon much better." I recommend you find the novels and read themthey're sooooo much better.

The Good: Best Leialoha art I've ever sean. Great cover!

The Bad: This is the best they could do with the material? Disappointed!

The Ugly: Vogon poetry—still bad.
- Rob Holly

# HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

# FACT-FILE

Issue Reviewed: Writer: Artist: Cover Price: Enhancements: Other Notes:

Publishers:

DC #1 John Carnell Steve Leialoha \$4.95 Prestige format Part one of a 3 Issue mini-series

3 Issue mini-series adapting Douglas Adams' series of novels by the same name.



HERO ILLUSTRATED



Be careful what you wish for...

You just might get it.





# Bound For Glory



# THE COLLEGIATE HEPCATS

# FACT-FILE

Collected: Hepcats Writer: Martin Wagner Artist: Martin Wagner Cover Price: \$9.95 Other Notes:

Does contain some adult themes and brief nudity in the reprint of Hepcats #1. If it were a movie it would be rated PG-13.

in A Flash: Raprints all of the Hepcats daily strips from 1987-1989, selacted Shasta Says daily strips from 1986-1987 and the first issue of the Hencats comic book, includes introductions to averything.

is it Worth it: Many good comics have started on college campuses and Hapcats is no axcaption. This is a graat opportunity to read the daily comic strip that was originally printed in the Daily Taxan at the University of Texas. The human bodied animals (animal headad humans?) ere unique and a great divarsion from comic art that has become too much alike. The characters are likable and the strip as a whole is graat to read and look at. The Good: The art is an excallent and unique mixing of cartoons and raafism. The Bad: That this didn't stay a daily comic strip. Thay are as much fun as the aarly Doonesbury strips. The Ugly: Gunthar in tha morning.

- Marc Camron

# LI'L ABNER MEETS THE SCHMOO



Kitchen Sink 1948 strips Writer: Al Capp Artist: Al Capp Cover Price: \$18.95 Other Books: Vol.s 1-13, 15,16 in A Flash: Ona yeer worth of graat comic strips including tha first appearance of that lovabla blob, the Schmoo. is it Worth it: I'm one of those neonle who hasitated on the Li'l Abner books for a long time, I was always under the imprassion that it was compone humor like the Beverly Hillbillies. It did not appeal to me at all. The truth is that the art is great. The humor is great. It really comes to grips with what people must have been fealing about their livas and thair country just after World War II. There's a wide variety of crazy things going on in this book, the highlight being tha first appearance of that Schmoos. Other stories, though, are well worth a look. There's one joke that finishas up tha story of e ona-of-a-kind pig that an old man wants desparately to eat that I couldn't baliave my eyes. I can't tell you what it is, Look for your-

The Good: Evary single penal. The Bad: Everyone but the Dogpatch

dopes The Ugiy: Try and find this book!

- Frank Kurtz

# OUTRAMEN"

He came from a Nebula light years away. Linked inextricably to his human incarnation, he uses his colossal size and unique powers to combat earth's deadly foes.

Witness the birth of a new tradition, a new begining, a new Ultraman!





# seaQuest.

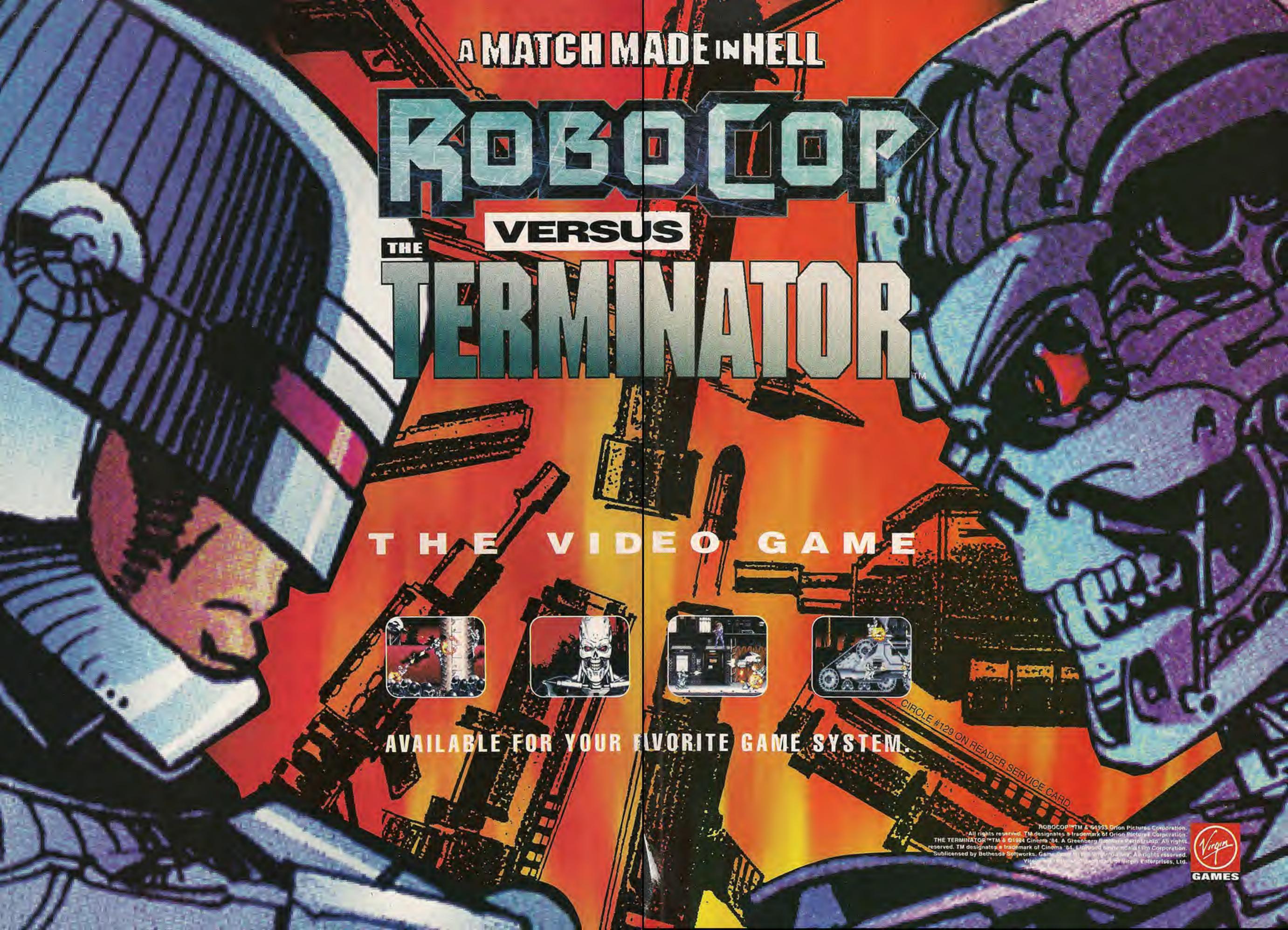
The year is 2018. Fierce techno-pirates terrorize the world's seas and the world is on the brink of collapse. Mankind's only hope lies in a reluctant warrior who captains sea Quest, a superpowered undersea vessel.

This monthly title is based on Steven Spielberg's new \$40 million underwater action series for NBC.

# ON SALE NOW!

from







Lin and Coming isn't really gone it iust changed its name Rather than have the rambling dialogue that was 118C this is an offerent to put a tighter focus on a few hooks that might get lost out there

This summer, we ant a chance to elt and talk to the guve at Chans Comics Brian Pulido and his entourage. They choused in come of their future projects

We were impressed So here's the lowdown-In 1991 Malibu let loose upon the world the ultimate chaotic evil being. Evil Emie, the creation of Brian Putido an ambitious filmmaker who had assisted in commercial work and music videos for Guns 'n' Boses and Queensryche. He wanted to make movies and wrote a script for a movie about a young troubled man. Ernie, who was given ultimate evil power by the mysterious and suftry

Lady Death. The producers of the popular Hellraiser franchise showed some interest but there were problems

"I noticed that essentially they wanted to buy me off and I wouldn't have much to do with the project. That really wasn't my desire." retlects Pulido.

Pulido was a lifelono fan of comics, and "on a lark decided to get involved " His rational being that it he could make a comic success out of Evil Emie then he may have more bargaining clout later on.

He explained one element about Evil Emle that the movie guys failed to grasp, "The

one leap of faith producers have to make with the property Evil Emie is that it's a teenager who prevs on adults, as opposed to an adult who typically preys on teenagers. We were approached by several producers who said 'Well. we love it, but we want to turn It into a comedy ' or 'We love it but we want to turn it into a high school nerd drama.' My teeling is untit a producer comes along and says Way, we like it the

way it ie ' it'll remain a comic where it's 100 parcent what it needs to be " The control that Pulido has over his character has snawned for himself a whole new interest in the comic market Sales for the Evil Ernie limited series

were pretty

decided to

take the

good, so

Pulido

next hig sten into self

nublishing Evil Emie will be the flagship title of the new Chaos Comics line December will see the first book of the line. Evil Ernie #0. January will follow with the Larty Death limited series where we "learn how a girl named Hope, at the time of the black planue, becomes the female personification of death."

After that, Pulido plans to roll out the dark universe that is Chaos Comics. Even though the titles are taking place in the same universe,

Pulido emphasizes that each title

will have its own distinct flavor. The big plan. though, is to start with a universe and destroy It over a five-year period Why would creators commit such a cruel act upon the innocents of their comic universe? "We're guys who grew up reading comics. and at a certain point, it seemed they were no longer written with us in mind. We're sort of

responding to the world

around us."

Pulido further explained, "Our stuff tends to be darker and a little more violent. They're not "mature reader" books; they're still very pop-culture oriented.1

# CHAOS UNLEASHED!

The overriding theme through the Chaos line, unlike the old Marvel credo of "With great power comes great responsibility." is that "with great power comes great license to use that power."

Pulido points out that the characters that inhabit the Chaos universe are difficult to classify. "We don't call our guys heroes and villains They react the way a situation demands they react."

The other titles of the Chaos line continue to illustrate this grim philosophy. Lynch Mob is a group of super-powered cyborgs from the uture (what future if the universe has been destroyed?) who wind up getting stranded in our time. The way they conduct themselves to

resolve a situation is paramilitary in execution. Their body parts have been replaced as they've lost them in battle. The Crawler is a

publicly adored superhero by day. who is a murderous vigilante by night, He's also kind of gooey and Off in the tuture there

may be a comic teaturing Scream Queen. Brinke Stevens, written by Faust and Dr. Strange writer, David Quing.

With the violent overtones in Chaos, we wondered if perhaps they were contributing to a glut of grim and gritty characters.

Pulido responded, "In Chaos, we're more interested in the downside of the effects of nower. In the real world, we've seen how people in positions of

responsibility have abused it. but we're interested in exploring that a little bit. I think the generation of people we're writing comics for are a bit disillusioned by people in power. and there's a

degree of cynicism. This is our reaction to what we see. We turn on the news, we see horrifying things, and it anything, our characters help a read-

er to vent and control this stuff." The Chaos creators will also have their work appearing in a couple of Dark Horse titles as well. Rack & Pain is a four-issue mini-series

> about two Intergalactic mercenaries who live a life of luxury on a

world called The Pife. Detonator is a 48page one-shot by Pulido and Stephen Hughes. The wrong people are receiving super-human powers on a random hasis. Instead of the most deserving

getting the powers, the least deserving do. The man who created this mess, Judge,

is chosen to clean up affer himself. He must hunt down and shoot all these people with power before they tear the planet apart.

Pulldo concludes, "This is a creator-owned company. Our work is tougher. Our work is possibly more honest. It's not meant to be negative."

# CHECK 'EM OUT!

**Jimmy** Olsen Believe it or not, this title may be

the one comic that has had the

most lasting long-term effect on the current Superman line In his brief run on the book. Jack Kirby created or revived same of the most fun and crazed concepts that are still around like the DNA Project, the Newsboy Legion, the Guardian, Morgan Edge, Intergang, Dubbilex and Angry Charije, How much of this stuff have you seen over the last few years in the Superman



The Jimmy Olsen comic ran an incredible 163 issues. Jimmy had tons of adventures that ranged from action to the ridiculous. Where else in comics could you have your hero go back in time and spawn a Beatles-like musical revolution? Or see your hero become the stretchable superhero, Elastic Lad? Or see Superman's terrible toe, Brainiac, deteated by a group of boys using an enlarger ray to make giant Cheerios? Or turn into a werewolf every night with the only cure being the kiss of a beautiful maiden? Or to become the giant-sized menace to all mankind, the Giant Turtle Olsen?

Crazy? You bet. Rarely in comics has there been such a nonstop parade of truly inspired and crazy comics as this one. For Jimmy Olsen, the world was a strange and perilous place, and it it got too bad, his pal, Superman, would ball him out.

Is there room in this modern aga of rough and gritty superheroes tor a true good guy? The kind of superhero who did his job ot catching criminals with a smile on his face and actually turned tha criminals into the police. Big Bang Comics; a lina of books created by "the grandtather ot Image," Gary S. Carlson, tentatively set to ba releasad by Caliber in 1994; may bring that fun old hero sparkle back into your eyes.

The whole thing will start in tha first three issues of Big Bang Comics, Carlson explained the game plan, "It's part retro comic, but at the same time it's an exten-

sion of what I started with Megaton 10 years ago, The intention there was to start a line of comise that had a built-in history to them. We're taking it to a dritterent degree with Big Bang buok, It's going to be a 64 page,

color book and

will introduce all the characters in a 1940s Golden Age style. There will be eight to nine characters introduced there. We'll follow that up with Big



Bang #2, but, now, the characters are in a '60s Silver age style. The third book will be a modern one, it will be a 25 or 30 year jump. That will bring everything up to date."

Tha three books will contain characters that change given the "time" they belong to. What Carlson describes has a tamiliar ring to it, "The Golden Age is

Golden Age, but the "GSs" stuff will be different. We start over in 1960 where real time kicks in. The "Sliver Age" version of the characters kind of start in 1960 and keep coming until now. For a character who starts in then, it's roughly 30 years later in the third issue. The Golden Age stuff we write off as Golden Age stuff we write off as Golden Age stuff we write.

to do is have an Earth A and an Earth B where the things happened, but it's 20 years behind the times. The Big Bang time line really starts in tha sacond book."

Carlson admits that the Big Bang universe has a definite DC feat, but hat's part of the nostalgic feet that ha is trying to get across. Though most stories will take placa in the present, Carlson does have plans to continue to tell "Golden Aga" and "Silver Age" exploits of this heroes.

"The tirst three issues of Big Bang is almost like a mini-saries to be followed up by a three-issue Knight Watch-man mini-

series; which will be a contemporary 90s tale. That will be tollowed up by a tour-part origin of the Knight Watchman, which will be mostly retro. He will start as a Batman influenced character. His story.

will be told in the styla of the Batman arists with Bob Kane, Dick Sprang kind of stuff through Carmine Infantino, Neal Adams through a Marshall Rogers style. That's the style that certain stories will be told in."

Carlson has not given up his previous Megaton characters that were drawn by newcomers at the time lika Rob Liefeld, Erik Larsen and Anget Medina

"I started the Megaton universe 10 years ago, and I'm incorporating a lot of the stuff into Blg Bang, Back in Megaton, there was an Ultraman. Basically, we've changed the name to Ultiman to avoid any legal stuff."

Probably the most popular character of the old Megaton titla was Vanguard, who is getting his own book at Image written by Carlson. There is a silm chance that Vanquard will show up in Big Bang.

"He might make some appearances, but if things keep going well at Imaga, he'il stay at Image, I would certainly hope at some point to do some crossovers ona way or tha other. He's got a toot into both worlds. He probably won't ba as big

a part of it as a part of Image."
Obviously, when speaking of a retro comic book like Big Bang, comparisons are made to 1963, the Image homage to silver age Marvels. Carlson addrasses this by

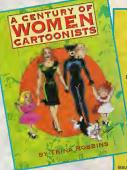


# **NIGHTWING?**

We have gotten a whole slew of requests from you, the readers, wondering what the deal was with that rumored Nightwing limited series about a year back. At the time DC announced it, the plan was for Art Thibert to write and draw the book. The promotional plece Art did at the time

became a poster. The last we heard, the series had been scrapped. With current events in the Batman books, who knows what may happen with the previous Robin? Still, we would recommend that DC take a second look at the most popular Titan and give him another shot at his own book. The fans are screaming for it.





seying, "We were really shopping this around before 1963 was announced. Back in July of 1992, I was cerrying and showing around a Knight Watchman packet. Then 1963 ceme along.

The creators of 1963 have seen the Big Bang material and seemed to heve liked what they saw. "We had some talks with Valentino. It's possible that Tom King (who's doing the retro Knight Watchman stuff) could be doing some retro Shadowhawk stuff. Apparently Alan



Moore has seen some of the Knight Watchman stuff and loved if."

Maybe in this ever expanding comic market there's room for heroes who act like Ultiman, Knight Watchmen, The Blitz, Dr. Weird, Venus, Brother Hood, Thundergirl, The Badge and the Human Sub. Maybe they can make the world a safer and happier place.

# **Trina Robbins'** A CENTURY OF WOMEN CARTOONISTS

By Steve Damail Walker end Millie The Model ("Stan

In the same way that a lot of people erroneously assume that comics have always been about superheroes, so do people often assume that it's only recenfly that women have begun to work in the industry. As someone who's been drawing comics for nearly 25 years, Trina Robbins knew better. "Even I didn't know how many women cartoonists there have been out there," she admits, "but I dld know there were many more than people knew about."

Robbins has recently taken the issue into her own hands with the release of her new book, A Century of Women Cartoonists (Kitchen Slnk Press). Starting with furn of the century newscaper and magazine illustrators like Kate Carew, Grace Drayton and Rosie O'Neill (the inventor of the "Kewpies"), the book runs through virtuelly every conceivable genre and style (chronologically, of course), right up to the current wave of female artists, both in the mainstream (Jill Thompson, Colleen Doran) and "underground" (Diane Noomin, Roberta Gregory). As a historical study, Century ends up telling us as much about the evolution (or de-evolution) of cartooning as it does about the women who practiced it.

"I'm alarmed at the way comics have gotten, through the years, more and more male-dominated end male-oriented," Robbins says. "I know both from research and from my own memory. fhef there were comics that women read, that girls read, or that men and women read. There were many more kinds of comics in the past, and of course, a lof of them were done by women, so I kind of have two messeges here: I not only want to bring beck to the memory of people all these forgotten women, but I also want to bring back to people's memory the fact that there were so many different kinds of comics in the past, end there can be again."

When Robbins talks about forgetten women," it's without irony, in fact, while essembling the book, she was astonished to discover at least one cartoonist she'd never known.

"One woman just came walking into a local comic book store, looked at one of the comics and said 't used to draw fhafi" Robbins recells. The woman was Ruth Atkinson, the artist who was present in the formative stedes of two very influential "our strips." Patsy

Lee has said he had more fun writing Millie The Model than any of his superhero books," Robbins maintains). Like any good historical text, A Century of Women Cartoonists manages to examine the greater history of women in the 20th century while keeping a clear focus on the subject at hand. When many male cartoonists put their careers on hold to fight in World War II, the women stepped in, as they did in every other aspect of business on the Home Front. As a result Robbins says, "The 1940s were the heyday of adventure ships written and drawn by women." The most famous examples probably being Tarpe Mills' Miss Fury and Dale Messick's Brenda Starr (the lafter being the only strip to survive the early post-war years; today, it's going strong thanks to Mary Schmich and Ramone Fredon), "After the war," Robbins notes, "there was a kind of classic thing that happened in a lof of industries; the women were just fired and sent home. As the women lett the business-very often because they

don't hire girls." The underground comix movement of the late 1960s and early '70s gave e voice to a new generation of women cartoonists, "but they weren't really a place for women to earn a living," By the 1970s, with the emphasis squerely on superherces, Marvel and DC had a combined total of exactly two female artists. "Most of the women-oriented books are gone," Robbins says angrily. "These are the days when women are supposed to have the most equality, but in comics they have the least equality.

gof married and had children and

hire any new women." In Century.

decided to reise a family-they didn't

Robbins includes the stories of two dif-

ferent women whose first attempts to

break into the field were actually greet

ed with someone saying "Sorry, we

I did a pro-choice book [Choices] e few years ago," she adds, "and one person who reviewed me said I was preeching to the converted.' Now thet's weird, because with Choices, I wasn'f frying to convert anyone. Everything you do does not have to be to change people's minds. With this book I'm not trying to change anyone's mind. However, I am trying to log a few memories: I want them to remember that there was more. I want them to see just how many diverse kinds of comics there were, and maybe they'll sfart demanding those comics agein

**#1'S THIS MOHTH** Tera: Team Teragonie, Americanics, 4,95 The Argonauts: System Crash, Alpha, 3 50 Catmandu, Antarctic Press, 2 75 Strengers In Paradise, Antarctic Press, 2 75 Inspectre, Arc Comics, 2.50 A Distant Soil Sketchbook, Aria Press, 1.75 Sputnik Black Eye Books, 5.00 Time Warrior, Blazing Comics, 2.50 Itchy & Scratchy Comics, Bongo Comics, 2 25 Simpson's Comics, Bongo Comics, 2.25 Jackmesler, Brainstorn Comics, 2 95 Warebeast, Brainsform Comics, 2,95 U.X.B. Comic Company A, 2.95 Time Master, Continuity, 2.50 Scorpion Corps, Dagger Comics 2,75 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For, Dark Horse, 2.95 Aga Of Reptiles Dark Horse, 2,50 Aliens: Salvation, Dark Horse, 4 95 Andrew Vechs' Underground, Dark Horse, 3 95 Caravan Kidd Hollday Special, Dark Horse, 2,50 Stan Shaw's Beauty & Baest, Derk Horse, 4.95 Alphabet, Dark Visions, 2.95 Showcase '94, DC Comics, 1 95 Arcana Annuel, DC Comics, 3,95 Oeath Gallery, DC Comics, 2.95 Good Guys, Deliant, 3 50 Motley Storise, Division Publishing, 2.75 Perts Unknown II: Next Invasion, Eclipse, 2.95 Wizard's Tate, Eclipse, 2,95 Girl Squad X, Fanlaco, 2 95 Holy Cross, Fantagraphics 4 95 Cruel & Unusual Punishment, Starhead, 2,75 Diva Grafix & Storles, Starhaad, 3.95 Starhead Mini: Die Laughling, Sterhead, .75 Arlgand Ocom, Fleetway, 1,95 Third Planet, Galexinovals, 3.95 Buck Naked: Crims Fighter, Heroic, 2.95 SeaQuest, Harvey, Daluxe 2.25 Heretice, Iguana Comics, 2.95 Phentom Force, Imaga, 2,50 Shedowhawk III, Imegs. 2 50 Troll, Image, 2.50 Legecy, Majestic, 1,95 Robotech: Invid Wer Aftermath, Elemity, 2 50 Metallica, Rock-II Comix, 3 95 World Comination, Rock-It Comix, 3 95 Solitairs, Ullraverse, 2 50 Avengers Strike File, Marvet, 1,75 Death's Head Gold, Marvel, 3 95 Oeath Metal, Marvet, 1.95 Oeath Wreck, Marvel, 1,95 Or. Who: Age Of Chaos, Marvel, 1.95 Easter Story, Marvel, 2.99 Hawkeye, Marvel, 1,75 Marvels, Marval, 4.95 Marvel Frontiar Comice Unlimited, Marvel, 2 95 Nove, Marvel, Gold 2,95 Removal Vs. Motormouth, Marvel, 2 95 Scarlet Witch, Marvel, 1.75 Spider-Man Vs. Drecule, Marvel, 1,75 Starblast, Marvel, 2.00 Origin Herbert Wast, Millinium, 2.95 Space Usagi 1, Miraga, 2.75 TMNT/ Flaming Carrot, Mirage, 2.75 Short On Plot, Mu Press, 2 50 Nathan Impaler, Nightrealm, 2 00 Elfheim: Shade Wars, Night Wynd, 2 50 Alternative Nation, Revolutionary, 2.50 Guns 'N Roses On Tour, Revolutionary, 2 50 Royal Follies, Ravolutionary, 2 50 Aesop's Desecrated Morals, Magnecom, 2 95 Latne, Sky Comics, 2.95 Seeker: Vengeance, Sky Comics, 2.50 aluebeerd, Slave Labor, 2.95 Dr. Cheos, Tnumphant, 2.50 Prince Vandal, Tnumphent, 2,50 Ninjak, Valiant, Valiant, 3.50 Battle Angel Allta 8, Viz. 2.75 Mobile Sult Gundam 0083, Viz. 4 95 Venger Robo, Viz, 2.75 Aseassins' Society, Void, 1.95

The comic world is tilled with more than just your garden variety superstuds and buxom babes. Out there are a few really cool books just looking tor a home (kind of like the Island Of Misfit Toys...sorta).

### **BONGO HEROES**

Matt Groening and Bongo Comics are at it again with the last two books that will hopefully create a massive demand for humor comics. Radioactive Man is Bart's favorite collectors' item comic book, which reminds us of either DC or

Marvel at their craziest. Bartman is what happens when a kid gets a little too absorbed in the whole superhero thing. Does Bart stand for true justice? By Groening, Vance and Morrison.

### BARKLEY-O-RAMA

Who would have ever thought that the man who doesn't want to be your child's role model would end un starring in not one, but

two comic books in the same month from two different companies. The crossmarket potential here is big, and they could be tun, too. Godzilla Vs. Barkley is a spin-off

from those cool Nike commercials. It's the hattle to end all battles that gives new meaning to slam dunk. By Mike Baron. Jeff Butler and Keith Aiken (from Dark Horse). Alan Dean Foster

and Joe Staton provide a hard boiled. basketball detective story (huh?) where Charles is the number one susnect for a series of referee murders. He has to clear himselt, so he puts on a

trench coat and gets to work. This could be big. (From Hamilton.)

MAO FOR THE BAT Two of the people behind the Batman animated series. Paul Dini

# THE COOL AND THE CRAZY

and Bruce Timm, have created an all-new graphic novel based on characters from the series. It's called The Ratman Adventures: Mad Love. It's the origin of what must be their favorite character,

Harley Ouinn. I'm to the point where I like this Batman better than the one trotting around in the regular comics. This is Batman the way it should be.

### THE END OF THE EHO-LESS? Neil Gaiman and

Marc Hempel (of Gregory fame) are creating the last major storyarc of the Sandman series. The

Kindly Ones. This story will bring in a load of characters from past Issues and will change the Engless torever (that's a long time). After that a couple of smaller stories and Morphius is outta here.

### SQUEEEEEEE!

Dark Horse and Valiant come

together to present Mike Baron and Steve Rude's creation that must be a real labor of love, It's Magnus/Nexus, a two part crossover. If you really love the flavor of those great old Magnus stories of the '60s, then this is the book for you. We've always noted a classic feel to Steve Rude's work, but this story even tooks better.

We can't recommend it

enough.

That's it for now. Write us and tell us what you think, Remember, Rob Roy Fingerhead may be watching.



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in the same way that a lot of people erroneously assume that comics have alweys been ebout superheroes, so do people often assume that it's only recently that women have begun to work in the industry. As someone who's been drawing comics for nearly 25 years, Trina Robbins knew better, "Even I didn't know how many women cartoonists there have been out there," she admits, "but I did know there were many more than people

knew about." Robbins has recently taken the issue into her own hands with the release of her new book, A Century of Women Cartoonists (Kitchen Sink Press). Sterting with turn-of-the-century newspaper end magazine illustrators like Kate Carew, Grace Drayton and Rosie O'Neill (the inventor of the "Kewpies"), the book runs through virtually every concervable genre and style (chronologically, of course), right up to the current wave of temale artists, both in the mainstream (Jilli Thompson, Colleen Doran) and "underground" (Diane Noomin, Roberta Gregory). As a historical study. Century ends up telling us as much about the evolution (or de-evolution) of cartooning as it does about the women who practiced it.

"I'm alarmed at the way comics have gotten, through the years, more and more male-dominated and male-oriented," Robbins says. "I know both from research end from my own memory, that there were comics that women read, that girls read, or that men and women read. There were many more kinds of comics in the past, and of course, a lot of them were done by women, so I kind of have two messages here: I not only want to bring back to the memory of people all these torgotten women, but I also want to bring back to people's memory the fact that there were so many different kinds of comics in the pest, end there can be again.

When Robbins talks about "forcetten women," it's without irony; in tact, while assembling the book, she was aslonished to discover at least one cartoonist she'd never known.

One woman just came walking into a local comic book store, looked at one of the comics and said I used to draw that!" Robbins recalls. The woman was Ruth Atkinson, the artist who was present in the formative stages of two very influential "oirl strips," Patsy

Walker and Millie The Model ("Sten Lee has said he had more fun writing Millie The Model than any of his superhero books," Robbins meintains).

Like any good historical text, A Century of Women Cartoonists manages to exemine the greater history of women in the 20th century while keeping a clear focus on the subject at hand. When many male cartoonists put their careers on hold to tight in World War II, the women stepped in, as they did in every other aspect of business on the Home Front. As a result. Robbins says, "The 1940s were the heyday of adventure strips written and drawn by women." The most famous examples probably being Tarpe Mills' Miss Fury and Dale Messick's Brenda Starr (the latter being the only strip to survive the early post-war yeers; today, it's going strong thanks to Mary Schmich and Ramona Fradon). "After the war," Robbins notes, "there was a kind of classic thing that happened in a lot of industries: the women were just fired and sent home. As the women left the business-very often because they got married and had children and decided to raise a family-they didn't hire any new women." In Century, Robbins includes the stories of two difterent women whose first ettempts to break into the field were actually greeted with someone saying "Sorry, we don't hire girls."

The underground comix movement ot the late 1960s and eerly '70s gave a volce to a new generation of women cartoonists, "but they weren't really e place for women to earn a living," By the 1970s, with the emphesis squarely on superheroes. Marvel and DC had a combined total of exactly two temale artists, "Most of the women-oriented books ere gone," Robbins says angrily. "These are the days when women are supposed to have the most equality, but in comics they have the least equality

"I did a pro-choice book [Choices] a tew years ago," she adds, "and one person who reviewed me seid I was 'preaching to the converted.' Now that's weird, because with Choices, I wasn't trying to convert anyone. Everything you do does not have to be to change people's minds. With this book I'm not trying to change anyone's mind. However, I em trying to 10g a few memories: I want them to remember that there was more. I want them to see just how many diverse kinds of comics there were, and meybe they'll

slart demanding those comics again."

#1's THIS MONTH Tare: Team Taragonie, Amendomics, 4,95 The Argonauts: System Crash, Alpha, 3 50 Catmandu, Antarclic Press, 2.75 Strengers in Paradiee, Anjardic Press, 2.75 Inspectre, Arc Comics, 2.50 A Distant Soll Skelchbook, Aria Press, 1,75 Sputnik, Black Eve Books, 5.00 Time Warrior, Blazing Comics, 2.50 Itchy & Scratchy Comics, Bongo Comics, 2.25 Simpson's Comics, Bongo Comics, 2.25 Jackmeater, Brainstorm Comics, 2 95 Warebeast, Brainstorm Comics, 2,95 U.X.B., Comic Company A, 2,95 Time Master, Continuity, 2.50 Scorplon Corps, Dagger Comics, 2 75 Sin City: A Came To Kill For, Dark Horsa, 2.95 Age Of Raptiles, Dark Horse, 2 50 Affens: Salvation Dark Horse, 4.95 Andrew Vachs' Underground, Dark Horse, 3 95 Carevan Kidd Hollday Special, Dark Horsa, 2.50 Stan Shaw's Beauty & Beast, Dark Horse, 4.95 Alphabat, Dark Visions, 2,95 Showcase '94, DC Comics, 1 95 Arcana Annual, DC Comics, 3 95 Death Gallary, DC Comics, 2.95 Good Guys, Dellani, 3 50 Motley Stories, Division Publishing, 2 75 Parts Unknown II: Next Invasion, Eclipse, 2 95 Wizard's Tals, Eclipse, 2.95 Girl Squad X, Fantaco, 2.95 Holy Cross, Fantagraphics, 4.95 Crual & Unusual Punishment, Starhead, 2.75 Diva Grafix & Stories, Slarhead, 3,95 Starhaad Mini: Die Laughing, Starhaad, .76 Brigand Doom, Fleetway, 1 95 Third Planet, Galaxinovels, 3 95 Ouck Naked: Crime Fightar, Herolc, 2.95 SeaQuest, Harvey, Deluxii 2.25 Heretice, Iquana Comios, 2 95 Phantom Force, Image, 2,50 Shadowhawk III, Image, 2,50 Troll, Image, 2.50 Lagacy, Majestic, 1 95 Robotech: Invid War Aftermath, Eternity, 2 50 Metallica, Rock-II Comix, 3,95 World Domination, Rock II Comix, 3.95 Solltaira, Ultraverse 2.50 Avengers Strike File, Marvel, 1.75 Death's Head Gold, Marval, 3.95 Death Metal, Marvel, 1.95 Death Wreck, Marvel, 1,95 Dr. Who: Age Of Chaos, Marvel, 1.95. Easter Story, Marvel, 2.99 Hawkaya, Maryel, 1.75 Marvels, Mervel, 4.95 Marval Frontier Comics Unlimited, Marvel, 2.95 Nova, Marvel, Gold 2 95 Removal Vs. Motormouth, Marvel, 2.95 Scarlet Witch, Marval, 1.75 Spider-Man Ve. Dracula, Marval, 1.75 Starblast, Marvel, 2,00 Origin Herbert West, Millimum, 2.95 Space Usagi II, Mirage, 2.75 TMNT/ Flaming Carrot, Mirage, 2.75 Short On Plot, Mu Press, 2 50 Nathan Impalar, Nightrealm, 2 00 Eithelm: Shade Wars, Nighl Wynd, 2 50 Alternative Nation, Revolutionary, 2 50 Guns 'N Roses On Tour, Ravolutionary, 2.50 Royal Follies, Revolutionary, 2 50 Assop's Desecrated Morals, Magnacom, 2.95 Lathe, Sky Comics, 2,95 Scaker: Vangeance, Sky Comics, 2.50 Bluebeard, Slave Labor, 2,95 Or, Chaos, Triumphant, 2.50 Prince Vandal, Triumphant, 2.50 Ninjek, Valiant, Vallant, 3.50 Battle Angel Alite II, Viz. 2.75 Mobile Sult Gundam 0083, Viz, 4.95

The comic world is filled with more than just your garden variety superstuds and buxom babes. Out there are a tew really cool books just looking for a home (kind of like the Island Of Misfit Toys...sorta).

### **BONGO HEROES**

Matt Groening and Bongo Comics are at it again with the last two books that will hopefully create a massive demand for humor comics. Radioactive Man is Bart's tevorite collectors' item comic book, which reminds us of either DC or

Marvel at their craziest. Bartman is what hannens when e kid gets a little too absorbed in the whole superhero thing, Does Bart stand for true justice? By Groening, Vance and Morrison.

### BARKLEY-O-RAMA

Who would have ever thought that the man who doesn't want to be your child's role model would end up

starring in not one, but two comic books in the same month from two different compenies. The crossmarket potential here is big. and they could be fun, too.

Godzilla Vs. Barkley is a spin-ott from those cool Nike commerciels. It's the battle to end all battles that gives new meaning to slam dunk. By Mike Baron, Jeff Butler and Keith Aiken (from Dark Horse).

Alan Dean Foster and Joe Staton provide a hard boiled. basketball detective story (huh?) where Charles is the number one suspect for a series of reteree murders. He has to clear himselt, so he outs on a

This could be big. (From Hamilton.) MAD FOR THE BAT Two of the people behind the Batman animated series, Paul Dini

trench coat and gets to work.

# THE COOL AND THE CRAIZS

and Bruce Timm, have created en all-new graphic novel based on characters from the series. It's celled The Batman Adventures: Mad Love, It's the origin of whet must be their tevorite character.

Harley Ouinn, I'm to the point where I like this Batman better than the one trotting eround in the regular comics. This is Batman the way it should be.

### THE END OF THE END-LESS? Neil Gaiman and

Marc Hempel (of Gregory fame) are creating the last major storyarc of the Sandman senes, The

Kindly Ones. This story will bring in a loed of characters from past issues and will change the Endless forever (that's a long time). Affer that a couple of smaller stories and Morphius is outta here.

### SOUEEEEEEE!

Dark Horse and Valiant come together to present Mike Baron and Steve Rude's creation that must be e reel labor of love, It's Magnus/Nexus, e two part crossover. It you really love the flavor of those great old Magnus stories of the '60s, then this is

the book for you.

classic teel to Steve

Rude's work, but this

story even looks better.

We cen't recommend it

We've always noted a

enough.

That's it for now. Write us end tell us what you think. Remember, Rob Roy Fingerhead may be watching.

Venger Robo, Viz. 2.75

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# ADVERTISER INDEX

ADVERTSER	RSC #	PAGE	ADVERTISER	RSC #	PAGE
Able Soft	118	67	Interplay	125	19
Acclaim		11	Konami	169	60-61
Activision	101	9,39	Lee Tenant Enterprises		143
Atomic Comics	106	138	Lucasarts	170	5
Baby Boomer	130	140	M & M Comics	127	99
Blackball Comics	105	142	Malibu Comics		110,126-127,132
Bill Cole Enterprises	108	133	Marvel Comics		20-21,196
Bowe & Board	109	96-97	New Graphics Exp	171	51
Buy the Book	110		Now Comics	132	104
Capitol City Distribution	162	23	Petra Comics	172	128
Comic Net	113	140	Sega of America		17
Dagger Comics	156	27	Seika Corp	137	15
Dark Horse Comics	115	8,84	Showcase Sealer	154	195
Data East	136	77	Skybox Trading Cards	138	33,59
DC Comics		2,85	Software Toolworks	164	120-121
Defiant Comics	117	41	Spire Studios		118
Diamond Comic Dist	118	13,25	STD Entertainment	141	7
Dos Locos	119	76	Suncoast Comics	142	37
DTMC	167	71,90	Sunsoft	173	35
Dynamic Entertainment	163	66	Top Cow Productions	146	3,141
Harvey Comics	123		Virgin Games	129	44-45
Iguana Comics	155	98	Void Comics	166	139
Image Comics			Voyager Comics	****	53
		105,111,117,134	Westfield Comics	150	129
Info Comics	168	140			

# THE INSIDER

...All the gossip that's not fit to print...Big M hiding things, and cutting production...
...Spawn on game cart...Absolutely nothing on Brandon Peterson...

...All you Marvel lans take notice! There are secret messages out there if you can find them. Take a real good look at Marvel Age and see what you can. Yup, there's a hidden message in there! Within the pages of Force Works article in the next issue there will be a coded message of the Marvel character that will die, never to return! This is e major character bubs, with their own title. And get this...the comic will be cancelled after the death issue without any prior warning! Their single, Marvel will continue to solicit for this book knowing that some of the issues will never ship! This will take everybody by complete and utter surprise and that character will be "Captain Marvel" dead. As in forever! Sing with me, "Tony Tatkr makes you fee..."

...Other Marvel news: massive cutbecks are in, and Epic is out! Like any public company, the bottom line is the tellitate marker and the lest few reports have been less than stellar, Look for some minor titles getting the axe and the wurd's Epic is getting Heavy Hit.

...Dropping the dime on the entire comics industry, The Toddster has announced that the writer for his upcoming Spawn/Batman comic will be none other than the master of the Dark Knight, Frank Miller! Also, there appear to be only 5000 of the Spawnmobile Holf Wheels, check it out! Also, look for Spawn to appear from Sony Interactive as a video game in the winter of '94.

...Topps, the K-Tel of Comics is doing the Lone Ranger the right way bringing in big name Tim Truman as the artist. Also look for the second series of the Classic Star Wars Trading Cards. MFB has seen the art and it is great! Has anybody heard from the Kirbyverse lately?

...The Ultraverse is going to blow up Michigan! Hey, didn't Stete do that already to the Wolverines?

.. Now for the movers and shakers in the comic biz...Mr. Personality on his way to the Big Apple? Could be! The Little D says, not here, buddy! The Big M, nope, Big D, not likely, the Big V, hmmmmmm, could be, rabbit. Bite the Big Apple, don't mind the magglos...Speaking of the Big D, is it true thet the head hunters are looking to add en Associate Publisher? Could it be Mr. Three from the lend of the Gemsters is jumping ship?

...Oeoooooooool A little brdie is whispering in Fan Boy's ear, and the wurd is not very good for the crew trom H-town. Superhero comics that don't self, late titles, overly high expectations and maybe no real clear identity. Walt, who am I talking about here? Marvel, DC, Image? Nope, look real hard you fittle blood-suckers.

...Thet ebout does it for this time, you comic readers, you. Mystery Fen Boy will be back before you know it giving you the lowdown on all the heps and shakins in the biz that turns us four colors. See ya on the floo!

- MYSTERY FAR ROY

# BEFORE THE BLOOD OF HEROES-THERE WAS BLOOD ON HIS HANDS

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# UP FROM TH

# The Trials and Triumphs of Stephen Bissette by Chris Golden

As the author of the award-winning Aliens: Tribes, co-creator and editor of Taboo, co-creator and artist on Image's 1963 and a member of the creative team which made Swamp Thing a success, Stephen R. Bissette has spent 17 years making a name for himself in the comics field. During that time, he's seen, or been subject to, nearly every unflattering aspect and untair business practice this industry has to offer. At one point, it drave him over the edge. This is, in part, a cautionary

A Vermont resident for most of his

tite. Bissette originally planned to study art at nearby Johnson State, but because seniors got the first choice of classes. Bissette the

freshman didn't get to sign up until classes were already full.

Instead. Bissette's air was affectinstead, disserted at was altected by an unlikely influence—technical theatre. The McCandless theory of technical fighting has had quite an impact on my drawing style," he explains. The theory involves light-ing the performers and set so as to give them form as well as creating atmosphere and a sense of pace A good friend, Tim "Doc" Verrick liked Bissotte's sketchbook work so much that he footed the bill for Abyss, a one-shot with a print run of 200 copies (As far as finding a copy goes, good luck: most of them were sold at colleges and bookstores in Vermont, and Bissette hasn't seen one in years"). Abyss and a work in progress ("Cell Food)" which showed up in Di. Wirtham's Comics & Stories) were Steve's portfolio tor the Joe Kubert School, Later that year Bissette became part of the: founding class of the school Rick Veltch was also one of those.

attending the Kubert school, which was appropriate. "One of my favorite underground comix was Two-Fisted Zombies, Bissette explains, which Tom Veitch wrate and Rick drew. When I read that they were from Bellows Falls, Vermont, 1 thought, If they could do it and get this marvelous comic out from a San Francisco publisher tike Last Gasp. J could do it too. That's what prompted me to take that final step and go to the Kubert School.

"Joe [Kubert]:turned me onto the brush," he adds, "t remember him saying 'you're taking to this like a duck to water," and sure enough that tool opened up all the doors for me. My style was pretty well defined by the end of that first year. It wasn't that a style was taught to me, it was that I finally had the tool I needed to draw in the manner that was most expressive for me."

Of course, with Joe Kubert as teacher, mentor and friend, it was only natural for Bissette, Veitch and their classmates to took for work at DC Comics upon graduation

"When we began to interview, we naturally went (to DCL" Bissette says, but "when we went up there, two things had happened.

One thing was the famous "Implosion": "DC was building up for a new expansion of their line. The only one that actually came out was Ragman, which was Joe's baby. The rest of it caved in. The direct

sales market was still justs earn stages, not yet big enough to sur port the expansion OC had b Partially as a result of that, the was no work for us



Bi sette and Veitch Tounday there was much more to that lack of work than a mere imploston. A year after a series of disastrous inter viaws thay underwent at DC, they discovered they had been, in effect. blackballad, "The aditorial division of DC really had an axe to grind with. Joe Kubert " Bissette savit "and there was a mandate that none of his students were to be hired. Ross Andru was an editor at that time and was very enthusiastic about Rick's work. Rick was the dedicated kind of focusad, passignate artist DC needed at that time, but because he was from the Kubert School, Rick was not going to get work

"I also had an incredible interview with Joe Orlando, which



seemad to have a sexual agenda, no adds. "My portfolio had monster and bizarre characters. Loide thave drawings of naked women. That ou blad the lettondes extrac interest for me. [Oriunite] told me they were not selling comics, they ware selling sex—which Phever for got." What saved Bissette from total devistation was an interview he had later that day with MAD assistant editor Jerry DeFuccio who gave me one of the most important is not to take rejection personally. Don't throw in the tower take the challenge and keep going. Pissette's bread and butter was his connection with Heavy Metal art. director John Workman, His freritions work there led to what appeared to be a choice did for Steve and Rick, a comios adaptation of Staven Spielberg's 1941 Twith writer Allan Asherman). "We thought we had it made." Bissette

chuckles and it died. Maybe so, but it impressed Marvel editor Rick Marschall anough to put him to work. "Into The Shop" was Steve's "first brush with the Marvet method of doing comics." Ha notes grimly that after he'd cone to the trouble of taking the original story and breaking it down strawing and inking it, "Ron Goulart gets the art in some form or other and dialogues it. and he's called the writer. The artistis really the storyteller. It was quite a shift of opers \*

Still, for all its shortcomings, "Into The Shop" caused Marschall to invite Bissette and Vaitch to work on a brand naw project called Epic Illustrated, Marval's rasponse to Heavy Metal However while creators' rights on Enic were clear, at Marvel in general the issue was far trom black and white

"I delivared this complete story, 'Into The Shop,' and I'm told I can not be paid unless I sign a blanket work-for-hira contract." Bissette racalls, "So, I'm handed this contract and my paychack hangs on it. I felt t had no altarnativa. I had already done the work and despite all my reservations and concerns t signad that contract." The contract came back to haunt Bissatte when he did a story for Marval's Bizarre Adventures with Sleve Perry, "We ware supposed to own the copyright, but because I had signed this blanket work-tor-hire agreement, they appropriated the copyright for

the story with a single phone call after we turned it in Tha story "A From Is A From is one Bissette is espicially simuld of "Lold that slory" while my wife and I wate noing through a-miscarriage 1 milds the idline by the skin of my teeth with this trauma going on at home and my reward for making that deadline was having the story taken from me lorsk stock and barrel

"After that." he says. "I never àgain ever let à igh take prendent over whatever was happening in my life. That had professional conse quences for ma, built don't have any regrets about it. I do have regrets. attout keeping my nosé to the grind stone at a time when Ushnilld have been there for my with

The Ultimate fata of "A Frog ts A" From" wasn't all that disturbed Bissette. In order to get the art back



he "had to sign a piece a paper acknowledging that the art was their property and that they were returning it to you basically as a favor. The last job I ever not from Marvel was returned to ma years after it was done, in a horribly mutilatad stata

"But." he adds sarcastically, "it wasn't my proparty.

Bissetta had committed to do one more project for Marvel whan his friand Tom Yeates told him (and mutual friend John Totleben) that Yeates was taaving DC's Swamp Thing, "We got the tob," Bissette racatts. "Onty later did we find out we were up against Dave Gibbons!"

Bissette and Toflaben's move to Swamp Thing wasn't necessarily a

# "I'll never forget getting the script for Swamp Thing 21. It was the best comic script I have ever read in my life."

smooth transition; scripter Marty Pasko fell way bening schedule. "He was writing for television animation," Bissetta explains, "and it geme down to the point where issue 19 (Pasko's fast issue) was being phoned to me in three-page obtinks.

Themember dopin and I saying. Gee, wouldn't it be great it someone like Nair More was writing the book. As tuck would have it, we got a call from Len Wifen, SF doffed, to sey that Marty had chosen to go and their was a few wifer on boerd, someone that we'd nevar heard of, a British tellow naimed Alam More. John and I wem't YSSI"

"I'll never forger jetting the script for issue 21; "Steve slays." It wes the best odmic sorjet I have ever reed in my life. I'm way I don't think we "ever did anything better than that issue, 'The Anatomy Lesson.' The passion with which I dove into that is something I don't believe I had brought to combs for quite a while."

Without question, the work Moore, Bissette and Totleben were doing on Swamo Thing was a landmark in the industry. "I saw this as a comic that could work on the level of Stephen King and Peter Straub's fiction, forget that it was a comic. I saw potential here to do something that would pull horror comics out of tha groove they were in. Alan had none of those obsessions. He just wanted to write the best comic he could, and it was the first opportunity he had of writing a comic that was 24 pagas long. It presented a whole naw palatte to him as a writer." As a result. Swamp Thing became DC's first ongoing series to carry a "For Mature

Readars" label, and eventually led to the creetion of the Vertigo lina. The chemistry the three men sharad "carried us from issue 21 up

sharad "carried us from issue 21 up through about issue 40. After that I think you can see my interest dwindling, circumstances being what they were with my vary strained relationship with DC at that point, By issue-40, I was going to be out of there."

Of note here is the fact that certein aspects of strained relationship are not top for discussion. Due fold gag order which was part of the legal proceedings. Bissette must be careful when talking about that time.

One thing to freely take about is his belief that "Do for on or promote by any principle for "Do for young thing." One young they were know what they had. The circulation given because the redards given because the redards given dealure surface were two of three yeas' when you have presented a signing or convention applearance every other, waskend. Not one of those was sponsored or organized by you.

All of that might have been bearable, but when Bissette's reward for his work on Swamb Thing was to get the company's lowest page rates, it added



insult to injury. "I did a guest shot on ona of Kaith

Giffen and Bob Floming's Ambush Bog books, in receils, This work Bog books, in receils, This was when Julie Sahwartz was still activaly an editor. When Julie saw the pay rates on my vouchers, he called me and said, 'Slove, I'm learing up your voucher and we're going to have Keith voucher your pages.' That's when I saw what Keith was getting. it showed me how title I was earning as a penolier.

"We had all this newly gained respect and attention," he adds, "but at thel point, any publisher steps in and wants to seize control. They want to make sura this thing that

was rear cancellation and suddenly was successful would say on wray. That's air vinders and the book was. On, the other hand, the book was, on that track because we help been fall after. Suddenly, we were feeling a left amount of foreastire. Busetta is, dujck to absolve delibe Karaf Berger. Of any blame, but equally quick to describe a fall of the termination of the suddenly during t

down and draw anything for DC." Bissette calls "The Rites of Spring" (from Swamp Thing 34), "the last issue that was a lot of fun to do." After that, "the constant antagoni with DC on a business level came to a heed." Fighting with DC to pay long-distance bills for story confererices was bad enough, but when Moore came over to America for a publicity tour, things went from bad to worse. Moore, the hot British water was Ilown into New York (with his wile) at DC's expense, while. Bissette and Totleben (and their wives) "were staying with a friend down in the Villaga. We were on our own to get ourselves there and on our own to put ourselves up. So. there were Alan and Phyllis being treated like royelty, end there were his artistic collaborators being traated like s -- t by DC Comics, DC had no parception of the tension they were creating between Alan and his artistic collaborators, but Karen Berger could see it.

"None of it was generated by Alan," Bissette is quick to point out, "but it certainly was a major turning point in my perception of whera we fit in with DC. It just went downhill from there.

"Look back at what DC got," he confitures. "That work is still in print. In many countries where Sarahan is printed in digest form, they are reprinting our Swarap Thing stories as back-ups. DC continues to make a back-ups. DC continues to make a tortune off of ortur work, and we do not get a penny of royalities for it. A lot of my anger over that is known, that we were being paid the lowest rate at the time."

As previously mentioned, there are subjects Bissette is legally bound not to discuss. He will say, however, that the settlement involved his family, and that their involvement was "dabilitatingt."

"At the end of that process," he says, "my wife came into my studio



one night. She hadn't heard any thing out of me for about three hours, and I was sitting at the drawing board; staring at the blank page in front of me. [It] was DC paper, the tittle blue imprint across the top read 'Property of DC Comics,' and at that point I was incapable of working on the book any longer."

That was the defining moment of the burn-out to which Bissette refers. After issue 40-based on en idea of his in which a lycanthrope's changes are tied to a woman's menstrual cycle—the fill-ins began. Bissette did only three issues after that

By that time, I was just an emolional wreck," he remembers. "I was just a mess personally." The tast straw for Bissette came when his old iriends Rick Veitch and Tim Truman invited him to "jam on an issue of Scout. To me, 'jam' meant to get together and organically work on an issue. I can't tetl you how my heart sank as thel whole thing evolved Rick delivered to me penciled pages from a script I never saw and I went 'I'm an Inker.' It wasn't a jam." With the exception of a few Swamp Thing covers. Bissette just slopped draw-

During this dark period, he found a friend in Cerebus creator Dave Sim. "Dave said he would publish whatever [John Totleben end I] wanted to do," he recalls. To fill what they saw as a vacuum, the two men created the horror anthology Taboo,

When we were doing Swamp Thing," Bissette says, "there were very few horror comics. It was one of the real nadirs of the horror cycle. Since 1954 end the Comics Code. with the exception of a few high

points like Mary Wolfman and Gene-Colan's masterpiece Tomb of Dracula, all the industry had been doing was regurgitating the EC formula. We felt the need to have something which brought Alan Moore, Charles Burns, S. Clay Wilson and Moebius and all these people together, because we felt that was the kind of anthology that would break the mold of EC Comics:

Dave supported John and I through the two year process of putting Taboo together, Bissette notes. Littli think [Taboo 1] was only 50 percent successful, but it was a proper starting point." When it came out in November 1988. It was published, not by Dave Sim. but by. Spiderbaby Graphix-which was actually Steve Bissette and wife Merlene O'Connor, Taboo was on a nearly suicidal path. Even if an issue was quite profitable, Bissette's selflessness meant there was no money

left for the next one! "I have no regrets about how selfless Taboo was on a business level," he admits. "Yes, it was stup d and yes, it cost me big time, but a lot of good came out of Taboo" including Atan Moore and Eddie Campbell's From Hell and Jeff Nicholson's Through The Habitrails and it nothing else, it served as a starting point for the recent spate of horror comics; such as Faust and Cry For Dawn. It is now expected that in 1994, Taboo 8. 9 and 10 plus The Taboo Book of the Dead will come out on a quarterty basis, and that will be the end.

More importantly, Taboo "took all the mystery out of publishing" for Bissette. "I knew how to publish. Thal also means I knew when I was lied to. Publishers want publishing to seem myslerious and unapproachable, that it's some sort of trick only they are capable of pulling. There's no trick, anyone can publis Whether you are successful or not is another complex issue.

After writing Aliens; Tribes for Dark Horse (which won him the Bram Stoker Award), the success of Image Comics made an incredible reunion possible. Accepting an offer from Shadowhawk creator Jim Valentino, Bissette, Moore, Veitch and Totleben gathered to create the unique mini-series 1963. Hearkening back to the simpler times end the much simpler industry of that era, 1963 is elso an indiciment of that apparent innocence.

"Publishers want publishing to seem mysterious and unapproachable, that it is some sort of trick that only they are capable of pulling."

and an indictment of business practices which continue to this day.

"1963 is a way to escape and confront the industry," Bissette maintains. "Let's not forget that Alan's desire to go back to '63 was a reaction against the nihilism and cynicism of the wave of superhero. comics that we're currently in the middle of which image epitomizes in a lot of weys, It's very much a reactionary strip. Yes, comics were like this once.

"But let's take the other side of my answer. The writing in 1963, ell the bullpen stuff, all the letters page stuff, even the ads are confrontational. When we were reading those



History never repeats: Steve and Neil Gaimen debate the merits of working for the big boys.



comics back in the early 60s, we really believed that Stan, Jack end Steve were a big happy family Alan's casting a very funny, but a very hard, mirror on the bill of goods that were being sold not only to the readers, but on a more personal level, to several generations of creators. We came into this business with very romantic illusions. The industry feeds on that: 'Gee, I would do this for free, what a privilege to be paid for it.' Now I say 'What a crock of shift!"

At the same time, Bissette is aware that Image now has its own reputation regarding industry business practices.

\*There is never going to be a knight in shining armor. Case in point: some of the guys at Image have set up studios. That means they're repeating the patterns of prior generations. People are working under work-for-hire conditions, creating things that they are not going to own. They're going to have to deal with the repercussions of thet down the roed. They've hed some hard lessons already and they've got some even harder ones down the road."

The lessons Bissette has learned have led him into new projects in difterent media. The first is We Are Going To Eat You, a history of cannibalism on film to be published next vear by Borderland's Press ("It'll be a corker," he promises).

Bissette's main focus, for an even longer term, will be his megnum opus Tyrant, which he expects may take a decade or more to complete. "Tyrant is very straightforward," he "In 1963, Alan Moore's casting a very funny, but a very hard, mirror on the bill of goods that were being sold not only to the readers, but on a more personal level, to several generations of creators. We came into this business with very romantic illusions. The industry feeds on that,"

says. "It's going to be the birth, life and death of a Tyrannosaurus Rex What prompted me to draw at three or four years old was dinosaurs," he continues. I knew

they had walked the earth but they weren't around anymore end that fascinated me.

"I will really try to saturate the reader, as well as myself, in what it would mean to be that kind of animal, to live out its life. I was raised Catholic, and we were taught that only human beings have souls. I've seen enough things in my lifetime with animals, particularly wild animals, to convince me that just isn't

Tyrant will be a 32-page, bi-monthly black & white comic. published by Bissette. Does he have any idea of its true length? Actually...no. "It takes me as long as it takes me," he replies. "I started this thinking that I had a 12 or 20 issue series, but I'm up to Issue 8. and he's four days old! I know what my midpoint is, I know what my key

peaks are, but I'm leaving myself plenty of latitude to stretch in there. He's also making a concerted effort not to limit his audience by releasing two versions

"There's only one issue of Tyrant that will not be appropriete for all ages," he admits, but he's also planning to do two versions of that issue. one for a general readership and one for an adult readership. "I've got to tell that story in the straightforward manner I would do for myself, end I certainly owe it to the general readership, to the parents of the kids who get into the series, to provide a version that would be suitable for ell ages."

In light of all thet Stephen Bissette has endured and learned over the past tew years, Tyrant would seem to be what he's been moving toward since day one, the logical result of his many trials.

"Actually it is." he laughs, "and it was pretty stupid of me not to see it sconer. Now I hope I live long enough to see it through."





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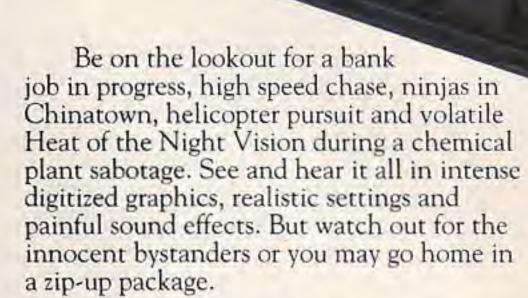
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# Spoilight On:



How a nice
young man
from Spain
moved to
Mexico, grew
up on a movie
set and
became the
world's most
"marginal"
artist.

If you know comic books, odds are you know Sergio Aragones. For more than a decade, Sergio and writer Mark Evanier's *Groo The Wanderer* has been a constant breath of fresh air in a comics world dominated by heroes who take themselves way too seriously.

If you don't know comic books, odds are you still know Sergio Aragones. He's popped up nere and there on television (most notably on Laugh-In, but more recently as himself on an episode of Bob) and in movies (as a desk clerk in the Fled Foox film Morman, is That You'). More importantly, his "marginals" have been a staple of MAD magazine for more than 30 years.

For all Sergio's accomplishments,

however, it's Interesting to note that its family originally frowned on his career choice. "Not because they would stop me from doing what I wanted," he stresses. "It's because there were duries for me to finish coclege, to get an education. So the thought of me becoming a cartonnist—he laughs—when they have never had a rich cartonnist the neginger, that would have been wonderful, but a cartonnist is the lowest thing you can aspire to."

One reason his family held such expectations for him is because the Aragones' were forced to make a living as immigrants. Sergio was born in Spain in 1937, at around the same time that Generalissimo Francisco Franco and his fascist regime took over the Sparish government. Given those circum-

stances, it made sense when Sergio's father took the family to the comparative safety of Mexico.

Since he was a child at the time, it took Sergio a few years to realize exactly what his family was leaving behind in Spain. "For every refugee from every political situation, there's always a dictator someplace that your parents fought," he says. "When they slid, so much about something, being a rebel, you always want to know why. You study, you learn it, then you realize, "Oh My God! They were right!"

Sergio laughs about his own enlightenment, but he's wall aware that the matter was—and for many people, still is—deadly serious. "When you see if happening again, with all the societies, you kaep wondering 'How come we don't learn?

# SERGIO ARAGONES



"I told MAD it would be great if we could do a pantomime drawing so evervone could understand it."

Why doesn't the world learn from the mistakes?' It's already been 50. years and there we are in Bosnia! The same things happening all over the placel It's hornd?

Once the tamily was in Mexico, life calmed down for young Sergio. His father a movie producer had moved the tamily to a house across the street from a movie studio. "My early memories are of playing on the studio's sets " he recalls "If I wanted to play cowboys and Indians, I went over to the cowhoy set. It was a great youth. So movies to me, they don't have any mystery.

Having such realistic backgroos for his games developed his imagination, but Sergio credits his uncle for helping develop his sense of humor.

"My uncle was bringing me cartoons and humor books from Spain. and he would always bring them to me, because he knew Lilked cartoons and I was making lokes all the time." Ot course, humor magazines from a country run by a dictator weren't the world's most daring

"They were a very...white humor, They were very censored. I not cartoons from all over: from Argentina. from France, so my sense of humor developed in a very general way. not in a specific way. When you are raised in one particular country, your humor tends to be the humor of that country. Growing up in a country that gets influences from everywhere else, I got influenced mostly by every other culture."

One major influence came trom the United States, especially the "generic comic strips," which the Mexican newspapers carried ("Bringing Up Father was called Pancho Hermona"). The adventuce etrine like Prince Vallant and Tarzan made their noints even in another language. Meanwhile the humor strips were laden with American slann and often failed to survive the translation. "With humor. I knew that was not the gag that originally was intended, because it was probably a pun, and it was untranslatable, so it didn't make any sense in Spanish. So many gags were so dumb." he laughs, "that we figured it couldn't be that bad! Once I learned English, I went back to old books to see how hadly they were translated."

One magazine in particular that lost something in the translation was Mad which devoted itself primarily to attacking American culture. "I went to my triends to have them translate it for me, and it was so bizarre! My friends basically translated it with no nuances or subtleties or anything " When he went to work for MAD in 1962 he re-read the earlier iceups "and I know how much I had missed ?

Even after re-reading the old MADs, there was one thing Sergio still couldn't understand-the lokes that lined the magazine's margins. most of which were related to movies he hadn't seen "So I told them that it would be great if we could do a pantomime drawing so averyone would understand it. With a little reluctance, they would say. How can we come up with so many ideas?" Finally MAD agreed to publish the

"marginals" until Sergio "ran out of ideas." About 30 years and thousands of drawings later, the ideas still come to him easily, "It's very comfortable for me," he admits, "and the more you do it, the easier it

becomes. [The ideas] come easily. at a good pace, and what I can't use at the moment. I store for future

One reason the ideas come easily to him is because of his early train-Inn in theater and especially pantomime which had the same effect on his art as anatomy classes have on most comic book artists. "You learn your equilibrium, your balances, your physical torces," says Sergio, "So it is a great help, it helps you to understand all the levels of art theatre and movies. All of them. compliment each other, it is not just one art. The more you are related to (other arts), the more you can

improve your art."

Perhaps the most emotional moment of this vear's San Diego ComiCon came at the Fisher Awards when Seraio announced the newest entrants into the "Hall of Fame" One was Captain Marvel creator C.C. Beck The other was MAD publisher William Gaines. Sergio's voice broke as he agreed that both men

# Spotlight On: Sergio Aragones

desarved the award and it was unfortunate that naither man had survived to claim it.

"He was like a father," Sergio says whan discussing Gaines. "He'd take you to dinner and get the most expansive bottla of wine, then ha'd charge you if you wanted to make a phone call."

Sargio has always enloyed doing the marginals, but he's been no stranger to the world of comic books athair in the fate '80 sand early '70 see he co-created two of DC's best-remembared, short-lived books, the bumor arthology Plop' 1 always wantad to do comics," ha says. "I grew up with them. I read them, and I enjoyed them. When I was a kid, I was always drawing my little adventures."

"The idea of comics was [to have] a character that was spacifically ora-ated for doing a cas spacifically ora-ated for doing a comic" which he would own outright. 'So I sat there and said 'Okay, I want to do a comic. What do I do now? I just sat thare and said 'Okay, what isn't there?"

therey" "looked at what was in the markat, and thera was a little of everything but stupid barbarians," he says with a laugh. Out of that stupid-bar barnan-lass Glimata, Sergio and collaborator Mark Evanier created Groo The Wanders, the story of a refentlessly stupid warrior who cherishes nothing more than a good fray except for a good-sized portion of cheese dip. First appearing in Destroyer Duck (a benefit book done to help Steve Gerber in his crusada for part-ownership of his creation Howard The Duck), Groo

went on to the late Pacific Comics: eventually it becama part of Marvel's Epic line. where it has bean for the last decade. It's to Sergio and Mark's credit as artists that they were pursuing creator's rights at a

tima when not many people were discussing the subject. It's to their credit as entertainers that they've

kept Groo so constantly antertaining-after aif, the character is so primal that it could have becoma a onaloke affair in lesser hands. One reason It hasn't (Sergio maintains with a laugh) is that Groo is less a character than iust a catalyst. He's just there, you know? Everything is in ralation around him, and he just screws it up or

saves it or givas it

a meaning, Once
I did an issue without him and the
town got destroyed regardlass."

rown got observeyar organicass: What Sargio's suggasting is that Groo is really the human equivalent of a Rube Goldberg device, where one action sparks off several other actions, which invariably lead to the final outcome. "Sura. Ha's not avan important. I take a situation—the homeless (for example). Groo will do this or that, and the story will hapgen.

"In the beginning it's hard," he notes, "because like children, you don't know what diraction the character's going to take. But as the character develops, it's like childran growing up. So after a little while, I just think, What would be a good plot? What are the latest things I nead?"

Aragones clies an example of that influence of today's word on Groz. "I'm vay much opposed to the [NAFTA agreement] between Canada, the United States and Maxico," ha says." I think it's going to be dreadfull for everytody, except for the very rich. So what I do la take Groo and build a bridge between two clies—Grod's idea. Of course, the moral is 'With the good also comas the bad'. Think about It, you know? I'm not giving any answers. I don't know the answers."

One of the things Aragones enjoys

about comic books is tha chance to work on a larger scale and in greater detail, than he could in the margins of MAD. "It's a big

differance between writing a comic book and drawing ideas for, say, the marginals, It's a whole world apart." In both Groo The Wanderer and The Mighty Magnor. Aragones almost always gives us at least ona two-page crowd scene. Unlike a lot of crowd scanes in comics, however, everyone is clearly dalinaatad and everyone is actually doing something. As a result, it's eas-

As a result, it's eas ier to make a logical visual progression.

"Well, the answar is vary simpla," responds Aragones, "I transport myself there. See, they are so much fun to draw, that instead of [being a] drawing, it's an adventure, I go there myself! If it's a comic book convantion. I am in that convention. I say 'What will happen here? There will be a booth. What will happen here? There will be this.' So I pencil avarything, and then I start being there, and this is what I see whife I'm there. In the battles, it's the same thing. 'This will happen, and this tellow will say this, and he will pass under the carriage, and these are tha tracks of the carriage...' and so I follow it, you know? I'm there, in any scene you want, and it's fun. It's not a drawing, it's being there."

If Aragones weren't enough of an anomaly among artists, his love of crowd scenes would clinch it. "Because a large crowd usully represents a problem for jarlists]," he notes. "They are not drawing a crowd; they have to draw a crowd to because the story asks for one, so them that's a chore. So what they do is just put fittle dots which indicate a crowd. But I'm drawing a crowd! I love it! I'm not suggesting it. Other artists are not shortcutting with it; it's just not important enough to many of them.



"See, crowds are so much fun to draw that instead of being a drawing, it's an adventure If it's a comic book convention. I am in that convention."

For all of Aragones' visual wizardry. Grop wouldn't be the book it is without the contributions of Mark Evanier and Samio knows it "Wa have to mention Mark because as you realize, my humor is basically pantomime, and I need someone to really verbaliza any of the gags I do. I write them the way I talk, and I know vocabulary, but I don't really have the time to put it in a comic form. So Mark Evanier is wonderful...he adds opetry and gags and makes it coherent. He makes Groo happen. So it works very nicely."

Having conquered the stunid herbarian market. Sargio and Mark wara looking to expend their horizons, "We always wanted to do superheros." Aregones deadpans. "but we navar had a chance, because we were working vary hard all over, and when Mallbu asked us to do a project for them, we jumped at the opportunity, you know?"

The "project" turned out to be The Mighty Magnor, the duo's tirst superhero book. As you might expect trom thesa two, however, Magnor is far from your ordinary superhero book: it's the story of two comic book creators who dasparataly need to come up with a new superhero, when Magnor-an intergalactic soldier for an extremely paranoid ruler-literally drops into their laps. Now the boys have their hero, and thanks to their comic book collection. Magnor has an especially cliched superhero vocabulary ("With great powers comes great merchandising offers...I need a place where I can be alone...A Fortress of Solitude, as it were...")

Parhans the most ancouraging aspect of the popularity of Groo and Magnor is that it gives the lie to thosa who constantly whine that "humor books don't sell." One raason that mindset persists. Sergio suggests, is because the mein comic book audience-adolescent

hove\_is at an ana where it's very important to be serious "You should remember that youth follow trends A vound man does to school and sees his triends collecting comics en he starte collection comice. He doesn't read them he doesn't care about them he does it because it's a trend. Suddenly, out of a hundred of them, one of them likes it, and he will become a discerning person and start buying what he likes. But a lot of tham will get borad very soon and start collecting baseball cards or cars...or girls.

When it's suggested that his books actually sell pretty well. Aragonas responds "Compered to what? Not compared to Image Comics I hone thay fast as long as Groot lacte

"Humor in this country is very hard to sell." he insists, "because you can gat it for frae anyplace. If you want sex humor, you buy Playboy and gat it for tree [He means you get the humor for free va little gutterbrains-S.D.1. If you want intellectual humor, you get The New Yorker and you get it for free. Television is tree. everything is frea, so why should you pay for humor when you get it for free? That's the same reason. thera's no wastern comic or adventure comics, because you can see them on the TV tor tree. You cannot gat superheros on TV because it's very expensiva to produce."

After all these years, and with all the obstaclas creators continually faca, why does Aragones stay with comics? "It's so comtortable. I mean, I wake up any time I want, I can sit by my pool, write stories, go to my studio, ink them...I don't answer to anybody."

# INGUISTIC

Sergio Aragones has graciously agreed to help us with this month's Spotlight contest by offering an Aragonas original—a sketch of the artist. "posing" with his two most famous creations, Groo and Magnor-to one lucky readar. We'll award this ultra-super sketch to the person who can make the most words (of threa letters or more) from the phrase:

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Frank Cestle ian't getting any you'nger. Ho's a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict, which ended nearly 20 yeers ago. We're not sayling that makes e person a senior citizen, but the aches and pains of aging can start to take their toti, especially effort taking as many injuries as this poor guy hes.

On the other hand, the criminals (or what remains of them) ere getting pretty sick end tired of this guy. The Purisher has cost all of them way too much. This time, they're going to go out on a limb. This time Castle is going down. Or is he?

Thei's the essence of the story-arc called Suicide Run, a 10-issue crossover running through all three Punisher titles— Punisher War Journal and Punisher War Journal and Punisher

Whose fevered mind could come if with such an evil plot to do in overpone's favorite vigilante? Responsable is the editor of the Punisher Trainly' of titles, Don Datey, Don challenged the writers with one quasilion, "Can we come up with a cituation where the Punisher's eath might be of more strategic significance then his file?"

nincance then his lea?"
Those writers and artists met the challenge with a story whose first chapter ends with Castle entering the Manhattan Towers, a huge urban center resembling the World Trade Center, with a Deodman's Switch. That switch will remove the trigger to 1000 pounds of Semiox in the basement of the building.

Why is he there? The Punisher has gotten some rather obvious tips that a high level meeting of mob leaders is going to take place in this unopened building.

The meeting concerns a subject that Castle would find particularly disturbing. They're meeting to assassing the Publisher, and they're using themselves as built They know he can't resist a chence to do him all in at once. That's what they're counting on. When Castle arives, they plan to ambush him.

There's sust one thing they they was the publisher.

hadn't reckoned on; Castle is more



# "CAN WE COME UP WITH A SITUATION WHERE THE PUNISHER'S DEATH MIGHT BE OF MORE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE THAN HIS LIFE?"

then prepered to sacrifice himself to shut them all down for good. His plan is to blow up the building and take everyone with him, and thet's just what he does.

Like we said before, they wouldn't dare kill off the Punisher, would they? It sure looks like they will.

Now that the Punisher appears to be deed, who will take his place? Who and why would anybody want to? A number ot people will rise up to attempt to fill Frank Castle's shoes.

"We have one we're calling the 'Idiot Punisher," jokes Deley. He's a maniac who thinks enyone can be a vigitante.

There's also the "Yuppunisher." He's e yuppie who thinks he can kill off people who will help his busiesses run better and

esses run better and make more money. He operates under the guise

of a vigilante, because he thinks he can escape detection and maybe even be applauded for it.

There's the female cop, Lynn Michaels, who you may remember from Punisher War Zone. Now, she has left the potice torceto become a vigilante.

to become a vigilante.

"Payback" is a good cop
who turned in some dirty
cops. The end result of this
action is that those some
bad cops killed his family.
Initially, he blames the
Punisher for the death of
his family. Realizing his
error, he is going to be out
there as a vigilante.
From England comes a

black motorcyclist called "Outlaw." He's very young and very gung ho. What are his motives tor taking this task on? Finally, a mob hitman

Finally, a mob hitman joins in because it's basically good business. He cloaks his protession by being a vigilante. People don't realize that he's doing it for money. They think he's

doing it as misplaced altruism.

altruism. The culprits behind Frank Castle's last(?) mission are Chuck Doon and Gary Kwopis. On Punisher War Journal, Larry Hame, John Buscome and Vall Mayerik on Punisher War Zone, and Stoven Grant, Hugh Haynes, Mark McKerina and Mick Grey on Punisher. The Sag awill be tied together by a series of covers created by Michael Soldon. It's been nice knowing you, Frank A.

# WHO WILL BE THE NEXT PUNISHER? YOU DECIDE!

Marvel wants the readers of HERO to decide who the new Punisher should be. Here's how to do it.

### THE RULES:

Write a paragraph in 50 words or less explaining why you think a parlicular Punisher wannabe should bethe real thing. You must pint your entry on a poetcerd and include you address and phone number. Punisher editor, Don Delley, will reed them all, itabulate the results and pick a winner.

Once again, here are the candidates:

# I) THE IDIOT PUNISHER: A maniac who thinks anyone with a

A maniac who thinks anyone with a gun can be a successful vigilente.

# 2) THE YUPPUNISHER: His plan for success includes blow-

ing away his business competitors.

3) THE FEMALE PUNISHER:

Ex-police officer, Lynn Michaels, may have been infatuated with the

70 HERO ILLUSTRATED

'late(?) Frank Castle to such a point that she is willing to carry on the Punisher's war on crime.

### 4) PAYBACK, THE PUNISHER:

A good cop faced with a problem of corruption in the department that is so big that he must take drastic actions. He may have wanted to get the Punisher before, but now operates in a tribute to Castle's work.

# 5) OUTLAW, THE PUNISHER:

Mysterious motorcycle riding youth from the British isles who takes on the task for the thrill of it. Could it be too much for this gung-ho rebel?

# 6) THE HITMAN PUNISHER:

Possibly the most corrupt individual to attempt to take the Punisher's place. Will the skull emblem hide the fact that what he does is for business and criminal purposes?

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The entire run of Suicide Run signed by the creators!

Get started today! Marvel wants to hear what you have to say about the new Punisher! Att entries must be postmorked by Dec, 1, 1993 and sent to: THE NEW PUNISHER (70 HERO HALISTRATE) P.4. BOX 250 LOMBARD, IL GOLDE



# MEROMETO THE UNIGE





Lesters nat a bad kid, he just seems to end up in a lat af awkward situations. This time he's been stranded an a jungle island being taken aver by pirates. With your help he shauld be able ta make it back hame.

The anty prablem is Lester's persanality. His survival instincts are a little weak. Plus, he always panics the first time he meets a new challenge.

Just dan't panic along with him...





Guide halfs wisely and femight just come for ugh in the clutch.



Who wouldn't panic at the sight of a glant mutant seaguil? FEATURES

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You've probably noticed when reading the adventures of a superhero-any superhero-that the reader gets to know what the hero. or any given member of the hero's supporting cast, thinks of the people around him (Boy, do we get to hear what they think). It's a very rare occasion when that table is turned. and we get to hear what the people think of the heroes. That's the angle for what is undoubtedly one of this year's most eagerly awaited proiects: Marvels, a four-issue miniies by "Curmudgeonly" Kurt Busiek and "Adequate" Alex Ross. Marvels tollows major events in

the Marvel Universe as seen through the eyes of an ordinary man- a newspaper photographer who has always seen, but never met, the heroes and villains of the Marvel Universe. It's a refreshing change in an age where it seems fhere are more people in the comic book worlds with super powers than

The idee for what would become Marvels actually started in the same way as the Marvel Universe: with a man on fire. In 1990, artisf Alex Ross was painting a cover for the trade paperback version of a miniseries he'd done called Terminator: The Burning Earth. The painting featured a Terminator skeleton walking through e wall of flame. Sorta reminds one of the Human Torch, thought Ross, and something clicked. A month leter, he had an eight-page painted story, re-telling the origin of the Human Torch.

"My original concept was a revamp of Marvei Comics #1, to be called Marvel. i wanted to do a painted book featuring the two main charecters who appeared in that book"-Carl Burgos' Torch and Bill Everett's Sub-Mariner---but "I expanded the idea to include a number of characters that I felt were truly original concepts." At the time, Ross concedes, he had no direction for the book, but the idea of "original" heroes was foremost In his mind.

That's the attraction of the Marvels series," he says, "The more you go back in time, the more you nd the original, pure concepts of some of these characters. That's what I hate about current superheroes, I mean, please tell me if you've seen a new idea in the past 20 years! It can't be done! If you come up with one, you should alert the media immediately!"



The Human Torch, a men on fire. Hey! That's gotta hurt!

"In a sense, almost every angle of the superhero has been examined. I certainly don't think they're invalid anymore, or that there aren't good stories left to be told, but there sure as hell aren't enough to support 2,000 books.1

So, armed only with the knowledge of what he didn't want to do. Alex took the Torch story to veteran Marvel writer Kurt Busiek. The two hed worked together earlier when Ross did a story for a Buslek-edited anthology. Open Space. Busiek loved the art, but had doubls about selling an anthology with no real connecting thread

"Basically," Busiek jokes, "my question after he'd outlined his story was 'So what are we gonna call this book? Ten Heroes Alex Likes? Where's the concept? What's the idea?" (For his part, Ross suggests that he came up with the series title Marvel: all Kurt did was add an 's') Alex did have one possible link for the stories: a photojournalist whose various assignments included some of the pivotal moments in Marvel Universe history. More on that later.

While these two men were trying to hatch a series between them. Marvel editor Marcus McLaurin had gotten hold of the eight-page Torch story. According to Busiek, his response was along the lines of "Wow! Is this just some stuff you did. or is this for an actual project you want to do?" It was for a project,

Alex and Kurt maintained. only "Once we needed a proposal, we started going, Well, what the hell are we gonna do?™ With the aid of McLaurin and Marvel Editor-In-Chief Tom DeFalco, the idee was developed and sold. The photographer, who was originally going to be on personal terms with the heroes, became (at DeFalco's suggestion) just a regular guy, who didn't know about Tony Sterk's heart or Peter Parker's

With the final alterations made, Busiek and Rossand Marvel-had a proposal which made everyone happy.

radioactive pal

### AND NOW, ON TO OUR STORY...

With photojournalist Phil Sheldon as the "hero" of the story, Marvels takes the original concents of the Marvel Universe one step further. "Stan Lee, and most of the writers who came after him, have been very

good et making you feel what it would be like to be these guys," Busiek notes. "My concern was

"What would it be like to be in-a world where these people are real? What would it be like to be in a world where these heroes ere real? What would it be like to be on the bus, where you can't get to work because

### The Thing is fighting The Hulk in the middle of Manhattan?"

"Over the years," Ross adds. "we've obviously gotten the perspectives of people in a supporting cast but it's not really the same thing as saying 'Here's the perspective of somebody who's living in this world. who doesn't know these characters personally, If you're Spider-Man. you know why you do this or that whereas to somebody on the street, you might be the ecariest thing he's ever seen. Especially the Human Torch-Hev. the auv's on fire! You don't necessarily know that he's an androld, or thet he has good intentions, all you know is he's hot! You don't want to get near him!'

Phil Sheldon's role in the series, then, is as a representative of those who don't know the inner workings of the Marvel Universe's heroesyou know, those folks who don't read comic books. "Phil has a lot of individual quirks," Busiek admits. "He's Jewish, he's e child of the 20s and 30s, he's married, he lives in the suburbs as of issue 2, but Phil is our window into the normal side of the Marvel Universe.

When Marvels 1 begins, the year is 1939, and there isn't e super hero in sight. "At the start of issue 1. Busiek says, "the depression was fading and Americe wasn't in World War II yet. The mood was definitely one that America was sort of young and brash and couldn't be beat. We were the biggest kids in the playground." That changes forever when Dr. Phineas Horton unveils his new



Prince Nemor, The Sub-Mariner, makes his Broadway debut to a less than appreciative audience.



Two highlights from Marvels 2:

android creation. The Humen Torch, Soon after that, Prince Namor of Atlentis—The Sub-Mariner—makes his first appearance on terra time. When the sociopathic Nonor meets the ficreely protective Torch, and of amatic, obsoit battle ensus, it's sobering moment for the citizens of America.

"All of a sudden, we're not the biggest kid in the playground anymore, 'Busilek notes. "We're standing on the sidewelk watching while these guys fly around. They might destroy our citry and kill us all, and there isn't anything we can do about it."

Of course, after the Torch and Sub-Mariner appear, the floodgales begin to open. Before long. Captain America has made his debut, and when World War II actually begins, The Invaders—a group of Marvel heroes banding together for the first time—are formed.

That's the plot, Busiek explains, but it's not the story of Marvels 1. "On a thematic level, what it'e ebout is America getting used to the idea that there has been a major change, thet there are these creatures in the world and they're not going away."

More then one person has described Marvels as being a history of the Marvel Universe. "It inth," according to Busiek. "It touches down on various important parts of the Marvel Universe. If this were a history of the Mervel Universe, there would be certain stories that we could not leave out. The history of the Marvel Universe is the carwas.

Basically, what this is is a novel, the story of one man's life that takes as its scope the broad picture of the Marvel Universe."

The fact that busiek and Ross aren't lied to a year by year re-telling of Manyefs history enables them to jump about 20 years between Manyefs 1 and 2. We more or less skip the 50s, when not a lot was heppening for Manyel, super hero wise, "Boss notes," and we return in a good year, 1964, when Manyel—mainly Dirko, Lee and Kirby—had gotten together this amazing universe of characters, many of which were brilliantly original and incredible takes on the superhero formula."

When Manuale 2 onone Phil Sheldon is a well-to-do photojoumal-Ist with a wife end two children, and in a real comic book anomaly, he's period! He's also seen heroes come end go, including—at the start of Manuels 2....The Avenuers "One of the things I'm concerned with doing et the beginning of every issue is making it clear what the status quo of the world is like," Busiek says. "At the beginning of issue 1, there are no Marvels, so il doesn't matter. At the beginning of issue 2, the Avengers are fighting the Masters of Full in Manhattan, and several reporters are covering the story There is very much this feeling that the Avengers ere our champions. The feeling in the world is that there are creatures out there, but the



If you're Spider-Man, things actually get worse from here.



...end The Avengers meet

Avengers. The Fantastic Four they're our beroes. They will defend us. That feeling sort of splits into two strains" es two events take place simultaneously. One is the wedding of Reed Richards and Sue Storm, which Busiek calls "The biggest romance on the planet. Every magazine in the world wants them on the cover." At one point we see a crowd of well-wishers and fans outsi Baxter Building, Ross, who loves a good cameo eppearence now and again, has worked the Beatles into the scene. Which makes sense when you think about it. Sure, the Beatles were great, but in a world of Mervels, they'd be just enother pop band (They're among the guests at the wedding-as are, of all people, Dick van Dyke and Mary Tyler

Moore). The other major event of Marvels 2 is the arrival of the X-Men, which causes unrest among the populece as a whole, "People are fearing that the mutants are monsters who want to kill us all. We try to differentiate why the public feels one way over-Captain America and Mister Fantastic, and another way toward the mutants." At first, Phil is one of those who feels differently, but when he comes home one night and finds a runaway child-who happens to be a mutant-hiding in his basement, it forces him to examine his own dichotomous feelings, especially when the mutant-hunting Sentinels make their first appear-

"The third issue deals with how

that attitude changes as people get used to this sort of thing happening in the world." When issue 3 begins, the wardning of Road and Sue is a thing of the past now and in Kurt's words, "People are looking for the scandals." The Avengers have been villains who no fights to win public respect. Nick Fury's SHIELD has yet to come nublic about their activities and Tony Stark is being investigated by Congress for refusing to reveal Iron Man's identity

After the wedding, people start wondering 'Well, what ere they real-/v like? What's their agenda? Busiek observes "At the start Phil is working on an article for J.J. Jameson called 'ls Tony Stark Trying To Buy Respect?' Tony Stark's paying for Iron Man, he's paving for the Avengers, he's creating weapons for SHIELD-what's he doing this for? It can't be out of the goodness of his heart. Nobody's that

Phil has a negative opinion of Stark and his company," Ross adds. "because he doesn't heve the missing link that the reading audience So. Tony Stark and The Avenders

are being viewed as villains instead of heroes And then? And then? And then elong comes Galectus.

Now even the heroes are in awe. "All of a sudden, the world is coming to an end, and everybody knows it. says Busiek (who, thanks to Alex Boss, makes e memorable cameo in this story as a wino waiting for the end of the world), "and the only people who can save us are the Marvels [specifically the Fantastic Four] Whatever ettitude people were feeling is swept away by the danger, and they're virtually praying to be

It wouldn't be giving too much away to say that the FF prevail, end Galactus does not actually eat our planet, but the public is not exactly long on gratitude. "When they get saved, it's

kind of embarrassing, you know? Instead of feeling grateful to the FF foreyer and ever, the feeling is 'Well, it must



Photographer Phil Sheldon, the "hero" of Marvels not have been that dangerous."

"This is the point where Phil starts to diverge from the general public feeling." Busiek edds, "He knows this really did happen, so when he sees people on 'Well, maybe they didn't seve us,' he gets mad.'

Kurt did a fantastic thing in issue 3," Ross says. "We get to meet Peter Parker, with no link to Spider Man, All we see him as is a sort of leech, taking pictures of Spider-Man to sell to his publisher, who hates him and wants to defame his image. All we see is this punk kid, and Phi thinks 'If I were Spider-Man, I'd nall that guyl' I thought that was one of the most fantastic perceptions."

The author of this article finds it cheaper to make his

long-distance calls on the Daily Bugle's telephone.

Phil's anger at the public's ingretitude leads into the events of Marvels 4. By the time The Avangage are cleared of criminal charges, they're in outer space flahting the Kras-Skrull War "Now they're trying to save us all." Busiek says, "and if they lose, we will have no waming.

Phil wante to hain the harrose' collective regulation by cleaning Spider-Man of the charge of murdering Capt George Stacy-father of Gwen Stacy Peter Parker's fiancee His last scheduled interview with Gwen is interrupted, however, when she is kidnanned by The Green Goblin "Phil goes off on the trail" Busiek explains, "sure that Spider-Man's going to seve Gwen Stacy because that's what the Marvels do." Alas, as Spider-fans know, the web-slinger fails this time, and Gwen dies et the Gobile's hand

So what finally happens to our lead charecter? "Phil's ettitude definitely evolves with the times." admits Busiek, who hesitates to go further for fear of revealing the series' endina

Of course, Curmudgeonly Kurt is the first to admit that Marvels wouldn't have been the came book without the breathtaking artwork of Adequate Al Ross, "Every time I see more pages. I'm just stunned," he raves. "When I write a script, I visualize it in my mind, but I'm not a professional artist. Not only is Alex a brilliant artist, but Alex is so realistic an artist that when I see the artwork. all of a sudden the characters have become real."

Boss will not be painting the second Marvels series: rather, Busiek will collaborate with another painter/artist, Tristen Shavne, on e story that Busiek calls "the story of the Marvef Universe as seen through the eyes of a fringe participant"-in this case, a policeman and his brother. However, thet's still a long way eway, and both Busiek and Ross are more than willing to bring Marvels to the world.

"I've had people tell me Marvels is the best work I've ever done," says Kurt, "and my immediate reaction is 'Gee, I hope people think so!"

"This is something that really allows both of us to put our heart and soul into it," adds Alex. "It's challenged us; it's given us the opportunity to show our talents at their best. He realizes it, and I realize it." A



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ny joker with a plasma packet can bring a sea monkey back from the dead, but it takes a skilled surgeon to retrieve a human soul from the great beyond, let alone that of a super human.

In the case of Superman, a team of specialists come

together from

three coug-

tries to

breathe

life back

into the Man of Steel using a unique method of collaboration which few teams have ever exhibited.

Those performing the operation are the highly skilled writers, pencilers, inkers end editors of the Superman titles, led by the chief of

surgery, Mike Carlin.

They ere literary surgeons, taced with the meticulous task of intertwining four distinct books into one epic tale.

Dan Jurgens, story end layout men for Superman, explains the extremely delicate operation that the group used so successfully to bring Superman back from the afteritie: "Generally, we all got in a room and toss around story ideas. A lot of times we disagreed, had some big fights, and the last person left standing was the winner and

ultimately got their way."
Jon Bogdanove, Man of
Steel pendiler, explains,
"It's like any family...we
have our dystunctional
moments."

All right, so the operation isn't as delicate as it seems. However, the creative people behind the death end resurrection of the world's most famous superhero had a unique meth-

od ot

working which required a chemistry found nowhere else in comics.

The actual process began with the annual summit meeting that tocuses everyone's attention on the next year's worth of plots for the Superman books. The foundation for all the adventures yet to come are generated from this meeting of minds.

minos. "It's like making soup," "It's like making soup," "Bogdanove, says, "You throw your ideas into the pot, and the form you throw your ideas in as may come out as something completely different, but usually better—the flavors, they mingle, they meld and become something wondrous."

Karl Kesel, writer for Adventures and the upcoming Superboy title, says, "A lot of the work was done in the summits. We framed the house in the summit, even though we didn't know what the house would look like."

With what Bogdanove calls \*18 divergent, artistic egos crowded into one room." keeping these sessions from exploding into anarchy was no easy task. Editor in chief, Mike Carlin, was often forced into playing the role of mediator.

"That's one word for it," Carlin explains, "babysitter, mediator, cheerleader—I'm all those things, and also badcop."

"The hardest thing is getting everyone to think something's a good idea, because we all have to be looking in the same

direction if we're going to go in the same direction," Carlin continues. "I had to put together a crew that works in the same or similar style, even though their specific artwork or writing styles were different."

This 'breed ground' tor ideas also helped with the continuity of books. a factor that was intregal to the Reign of the Supermen storyline

"I hate continuity." Carlin admits "I have always hated it. I think it's a necessary evil. It's where all of our mistakes happen-Superman had a ripped up cape at the end of the last issue, and it's completely fixed on this issue and he's in the same exploded pit. Specifics like that are unfortunate, but they're a reality of the way things are done."

Part of the reason behind the success of the brainstorm sessions is that it allowed each person involved in the book to contribute ideas. This was evident from the very first meet-

Bill Shatner

Superman

Sunarma

ing in 1988 Carlin recalls going out to dinner with Jerry Ordway. George Perez. Roger Stem. Kerry Gammil and legendary penciler. Curt Swan, during a Superman convention in Cleveland where they all

annual. "It was invigorating. Carlin savs "it went totally smooth even to the point where Curt Swan was contributing ideas. which led me to

plotted an

believe it's best to include everybody, even if you don't think they're going to say a word."

"I asked Curt how that compared to plotting in the old days, and he said they wouldn't let him join in." Carlin continues, "He really had a lot of fun, and it started us off in the right direction."

As with any successful operation, there is usually a downside. Surgery leaves a nasty scar as a perfectly healthy torm goes under the knife to

get at a trouble spot. It is a life saying procedure, but seldom leaves the patient at full-power. At times the same could be said about the Superman books

"At times, it forced us to live in a permanent state of compromise Which is extremely frustrating to me and I'm sure it is to others as well ' Jurgens says, "I think by doing that, we took the edge off stories sometimes."

Man of Steel writer Louise Simonson says the technique "...took a little while to get used to.

Supermen series "Every team had a different unbelievable way to bring him

back." Simonson says. "We all kind of pooled our ideas and came up with the Reign of the Supermen and the real

Superman coming back." "There was a big fight over what Doomsday should have been.

Jurgens confesses, "A couple of the people in the mon

thought Doomsday should be a highly motivated and well-spoken character, all sorts of stuff like that'

"There was a lot of fighting about where he might have come from," Jurgens continues, "a lot

ot things that fall into that category which were later done away with, It's not that they were necessarily had ideas but we had to come to a consensus."



Although he's known as the "Man of Steel" Superman has had his share of traumatic experiences through tha years. Here are just a few of the many ordaals Supes' has suffered during his career. Invisible Chief Sitting Ben Hur







**HEADBANGIN'** MAN OF STEE

Don't cry Lois, Superman's back now. You just have to deal with his newfound interest in heavy metal music and the new hairdo



but I think having fewer people in the pond. There were not so many books to keep track ot." "It took some getting used to, but

it's really a very enjoyable way to work, particularly when you like the people you're working with and admire their work." Simonson explains.

"You had to not be too married to your ideas," Boodanove adds This type of compromise is best

illustrated with the death of Superman and the Reign of the

Jurgens also adds that there were more than the four Supermen who temporarily replaced the original, "A lot of different stuff went up on the board...it wasn't just the four that finally appeared, there was Little-Boy Superman, Rock-Creature Superman, stuff like that with a lot of different possibilities that were then narrowed down to the four everyone eventually saw."

Although their original ideas had been altered, each book's crew was able to maintain a sense of individuality in their interpretation of the alter ego Supermen in Reign. "There were a lot of different

approaches to take, and everybody wanted to do something different," Bogdanove explains. "One of us did the Superman that was the power. Weezey (Louise

Simonson) and I did the Superman that was the heart, another one of us did the



severe, justice side of Superman, and yet enother did the fun part of Superman...and we all got to do pretty much what we wanted in a way that served to son of illustrate the various aspects of the character, and we found a way to tie it all together.

"The one thing I was really interested in was finding out what makes Superman so super?"

After evaluating the costume, powers and identity, Bogdanove chenged his build, height, weight, looks, race, and powers, except what he felt was most Superman

what he felt was most Superman. "It's realty a sense of compassion," he explains, "Weezey's take on Superman is really good, (he's) a guy who's overburdened with compassion and teels that if you have the power, whatever power you have..., jou've got to use it to the max to help make the world a better place... Just as Batman is driven by revenge, Superman is just as driven he compassion."

by compassion." "He has been misinterpreted as a character so often and for so long," Bogdanove continues. "It's easy to misinterpret the character of Superman, the complexities in the character, and just see him as a big blue boyscout. That's always been a frustration for all of us, and a big motivation for the way we've always worked on the book."

Regarding Kesel's and his choice of the clone, Grummett says that based on other projects, "[Kari] seemed like the natural one to write it, so we came up with the Superboy idea and!

designed him on the plane on the way home...and that was pretty much the final version that we saw."

No story in comicdom has ever received as much national, if not worldwide, attention as the death of Superman.

"It's unfortunate, I think, that deaths always attract attention, probably because Americans don't deal with it very well," Stern says, "If someone, a

beloved movie star, a former president, whoever, dies, it's automatically news, and that was the case with Superman. The thing is, you can only do it one?"

"He's not the tirst guy to die in comics, but Superman as a cultural icon, he's been really a part ot our national identity, and I think this whole death thing really illustrates

that," Boglanove explains.

"He represents what Amenica would like to think of itself as," Bogdanove continues, "hugely powerful in the world, yet brilliant and compassionate and elways doing the right thing. What does it say about America when Superman can only be hurt and bleed, but die-killed by somebody bigger. I think that sociologically is what makes it

such a big deal."

Action Comics writer Roger Stern views the phenomenon a bit less philosophically, "A lot of it was due to a slow newsday," Stern hypothesizes. "If anything had happened that week—if Clinton had come up

with his whole cabinet, it Bush had barricaded himself in the White House and said, "I'm not coming out," no one would have peid any attention."

"The cynics of the world have accused us of doing this just for money," Cartin says. "The first thing I say to that is, 'So,' the second thing I say to that is 'I swear to God, we wrote every

at DC can keep you younger and healthier than the Mayo Clinic ever could.

the culprit as former

Adventures of Superman writer,

Jerry Ordway.

"Every year, Jerry says, 'Hey, let's kill him...' and this year we said, 'Hey, that's not a bad idea'" she laughs

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"Once we started thinking about not only the death story, but particulerly the aftermath stories, we really knew that was something we wanted to do "Simonson says

ed to do," Simonson says.

What really killed Superman?

Marriage.

Deciding to delay the wedding of the century until the Lois and Clark television series was able to develop its characters, Team Superman was stuck with finding a completely new plot line.

Cerlin explains, "We decided to hold off and we basically said, 'All right, now what are we going to do?' and somebody yelled out the classic, 'Let's kill him!' I said, 'Okay, then what?' and when we came up with the funeral story, we really knew we had something,"

The biggest undertaking of this team of creatives was not killing

Superman, but bringing him back.
"The only thing we put pressure on ourselves to do was not to cheat anybody with the story," Adventures penciler, Tom Grummett, explains.
"We didn't want him just sitting up in

the coffin and saying, "I'm back!"
Bogdanove agrees, "We couldn't
in one issue have him come back
from being dead, end the next issue
everything back to normal as if nothing had ever happened. We really
thought it was necessary to play this



thing out as much as possible and in such a way as to make it real. Okay, so it's impleusible that people come back from the dead, but it's also implausible that people fly. However if both of those things can happen, you've got to meke the human reaction to ell that real."

"The actual death of Superman was just a slugtest," Bogdenove continues, "the real story...was showing the world what it would be like without Superman."

According to Stern, the world was a happier place with Supermen in it.

"In all of the tours and eppearances that I made, I only ran into one or two people that didn't want him back," he explains. "Everyone else was saying, 'Oh, you've got to bring him beck, you've got to,' which wes greet, because we wanted to."

"If everyone said, 'Good, keep him dead,' we would heve been in trouble," Stern leughs.

Some have said that Superman was never truly deed, but at an exclusive Rogelne treatment center in which he donned a less flamboyant costume to avoid publicity.

The writers end ertists heve a difterent theory on the newer, hipper, longer mened Superman.

"It just seemed like his hair might have grown longer while he was dead, beceuse your hair keeps growing after you're dead." Simonson expleins. "We've run into a number of women who think he looks like a real hunk this way."

"Jon Bogdanove drew the black uniform in e sketch et the meeting in which we decided to come back with the four Supermen," Jurgen's says ot the return look, "I was drawing Superman 81, and I knew that eventually we were going to go back to the regular costume which bummed me out, I really wanted to do something different, so I started drawing him with longer hair.

Bogdanove egrees, "I think every one of us has wanted to play with his costume from time to time-we don't really want to get rid of his classic one, but it's fun to pley with his appearance."

"I think the longer hair is sort of a metaphor for rebirth...it's like renewed life," Bogdanove continues. "It's almost like he's younger because he's been reborn, so the longer hair is kind of a wey to illustrete thet. Besides, I've always wanted to draw Clark with a ponytail."

He jokingly adds, "I have e pony-

tail...I'm sure that has something to do with Supes getting longer hair."

After saving the world for over half a century, cheating death, and capturing the undivided ettention of meinstream America, what could possibly lie ahead for Superman?

"I think we'd be kidding ourselves it we had the arrogance to think we could top the death on command." Cerlin says.

"[The merriage] is a story that we really want to do," Bogdanove explains, "I don't teel, as many critics have, that you destroy the essence of the relationship between Clark and Lois by merrying them off, I don't think that marriage marks the end of the interpersonal drama."

The Death has spiked interest, not only for Superman, but for related titles as well.

Jurgens is working on e three-part Doomsday prestige series featuring the rematch of the century as well as the origin of the villain, Superboy and Steel will each be getting their own books, and Stern will be writing a Supergirl mini-series.

"We'll be seeing some big changes in Supergirl," Stern says, "She'll discover that Lex Luthor isn't the really swell guy she thinks he is. Once she tinds that out, it becomes

very unhealthy to be Lex Luthor." We're going to put Luthor through the ringer this year." Carlin confirms. "Luthor's going to have a rough year-he's had it too easy."

With ell the Supertitles emerging, Carlin feels that the strengths of the characters will save them from overkill.

"I think Steel and Superboy ere really different than Superman personality-wise, costume-wise, powerwise," Carlin explains, "they're not even what the old Superboy, end even Supergirl were-they were carbon copies. These guys have something to say that does not compete directly with Superman.' "I do think there is room for good

characters and good comics out there, and if people ere going to buy the other companies' rlp-offs of Superman, they might es well buy ours as long as we're doing a good job on them," he adds.

Superman has gotten a new lease on life, and the new readers attracted by his death seem to have rejuvenated his books as well.

"What I love is thet a lot of tamilies ere reeding Superman," Stern says. "I've been to store appearances, conventions-whole tamilles, Moms, Dads end kids and even aunts, uncles end grandparents are...reading comics together."

"I do appreciate the people who are going to be sticking around now that the real Superman is back," Carlin says. "I think that we've







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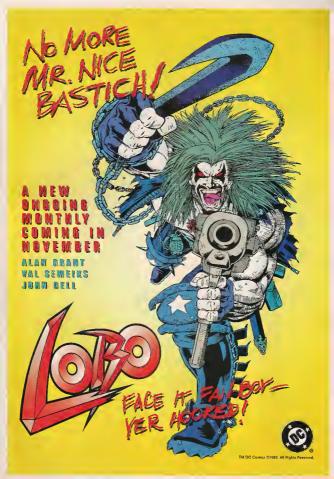


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THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!



# 

history is in the making...

# dc's plan to rewrite its origin

By Paul Grant

Once upon a time in the DC Universe, there were a multitude of Earths, so many that they needed hyphens and numbers or letters as part of their names. Earth-1. Earth-2. Earth-S. Earth-F. In retrospect, they seemed almost infinite in variety. Then, in 1985, they went away (thanks to the Crisis on Infinite Earths), and supposedly left one unified Earth in their place. In the years since the event which merged all those Earths, however, the multiplicity of dimensions has been replaced by a multiplicity of possible futures. Figures like Monarch, Lord Chaos, Glorith and Valor co-exist in ways that cannot be reconciled. Time appears to be out of joint, and things will get worse before they get better. There is a new crisis on the horizon.

Zero Hour: Crisis In Time is slated to be a 5-part limited series, written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens, that will result in a major restructuring of the DC Universe. DC has scheduled the mini-series for weekly publication in July and August of 1994. To reflect the "countdown" suggested

by its title, Zero Hour will begin with issue 4, to be followed by issues 3, 2, 1 and finally (and fittingly) Zero Hour 0.

Zero Hour was originally the brainchild of Superman writer/artist Dan Jurgens, an idea he first suggested to editor Mike Carlin at the 1992 San Diego Comicon. "Since the Crisis on Infinite Earths, DC's continuity has become progressively more complicated on a yearly basis," Jurgens says. "No one could really get any kind of handle on it at all. It became apparent that something had to be done, and I said 'Let's find a way to take everything apart and put it back together so it makes sense. We owe the readers that."

Crisis on Infinite Earths gave DC a clean slate, Jurgens notes, but that slate became just as complex as it was before the elimination of the alternate dimensions. "I think Crisis, in and of itself, accomplished a lot. The problem is what happened afterwards. If, at the same time as Crisis #12, John Byrne had done the Man of Steel mini-series, the new Wonder Woman, Hawkman

and Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn debuted, it would have become clear how everything fit together. That's not what happened. We kind of limped along and lurched from character to character, and each one had a restart without thinking of how it affected the overall tapestry. Events in Superman affected the Legion of Super-Heroes. They said 'Ah, we'll fix it later,' but the fix had its own set of problems, which affected the entire timeline. It just got progressively more complicated."

One particular retroactive change brought it all into focus for Jurgens. "We were working on some Superman stuff," he recalls, "and we wanted to harken back to a Superman/Hawkman story that John Byrne had written [Superman 18], where Hawkman took Superman to Krypton and they found it wasn't just a gaseous ball. I think it was one of John's best stories, and we couldn't use it because Hawkman wouldn't have that now! It was no longer consistent with Hawkman's story, and that was only, what, a year and a

HERO ILLUSTRATED 87

half before that? When we get to the point where we can't even use stuff from our own recent past, that's bad.

The basic premise of Zero Hour is that something has gone terribly wrong with the DC Universe. As Jurgens observes, "There are a lot of ways to say that time is out of joint. The trick is to make a story from this concept that's still enjoy-



able, and then to put it back together with consistency." At this early date, much of the plot has not been resolved, but Jurgens essentially wents to create e scenario in which

all things are possible Things are going to get progresslyely weirder as the timestream goes out of control. "If we look at time travel in the DC Universe." Jurgens explains, "we have an almost ridiculously lerge number of characters who have journeyed back in time to the current era. We have my creation. Booster Gold, the various Teen Titans groups, and virtually every Legionnaire has gotten in that bubble and come back for some reason. They never go back to the Old West. They never go back to 2099 to be in a Marvel book: They come back to Now: What I want to do is create a rational explanation

The basic premise of Zero Hour is that something has gone terribly wrong with the DC Universe. As Jurgens observes, "There are a lot of ways to say that time is out of joint. The trick is to make a story from this concept that's still enjoyable, and then to put it back together with consistency."

for all that, it's not just that they decide to come back to the current era: there is an event here, something in the timestream that was so big, and gave off so much energy and chaos, that it's almost-in the previous DC crossovers such as Crisis, Legends, and Millenium crossed over into other books while still in progress. Zero Hour will be largely self-contained. At the same time, there will be major elements that will be reflected in the individual books, and Carlson will work with the other editors towards that end.

"In Zero Hour, the timeline may collapse upon itself, and we will see the ramifications of thet in other individual books. The Legion related books will be affected by this scenario, and so will Team Titans, since it deals with time travel and displacement. Beyond that, we'll still trying to coordinate.

"The best way," Carlson adds, "is to include as many of the rest of the books as we can. Obviously, some will be less effected than others depending on what happens. The entire DC Universe will be affected by what heppens here, it's just a matter of to what extant it will happen in each series."

Whether Zero Hour will have any effect on the Vertigo titles is still uncertain. "As of right now, probably



not," is Carlson's answer, "although some of the shared characters will probably be involved in it at some juncture. There's a number of mystically oriented characters who are shared between Vertigo and the DC Universe, and I'm not going to preclude using them. They may show up in Zero Hour, but it probably won't affect any of the Vertigo titles per se."



Jurgens agrees: "The Vertigo titles have always been end will alweys be creatively driven from their own perspective. I think the best thing to do is leave them alone." Still

Carlson notes that any Vertigo folks who want to play along ere welcome

Understandably, Zero Hour has met with some resistance from creators. "The big thing I often heard when we started talking about this. Jurgens recalls, "was What are the other creative teams going to think? Are they going to feel threatened? Is the specter of change going to hang over them?" Jurgens suggests that Zero Hour is less a threat than it is a great opportunity to the writers and editors and artists to really go out and challenge themselves and push a little bit to se what they can come up with, it's a challenge not a



burden. "You don't just sit down and say you're gonna do it." Jurgens concedes. "Certainly, I can't make any decisions by my lonesome, like 'All of a sudden Green Lantern grows a lourth arm and can wear three power rings at once! What a great new character! This has to be a totally cooperative effort, and yes, that takes time to set up. I think what has to happen is that each editor has to go to their creative team. whether it's a new one or an existing one, and say 'What do you think? Then they have to come up with their own game plan, and the editor takes it into the editorial meetings and starts to put the little bubbles on the tlow chart and see what they can come up with

Another obvious concern is tan reaction to what could be construed as yet another major retroactive continuity change. "I'm certain everyone will fear that this automatically means characters are going to die all over the place," Jurgens concedes, "or that this will be a massive overhaul and we're going to throw out years of continuity on, say, Superman: I can hear it now-they'll come back and say 'You're going to erase Superman's continuity so he never died so you can kill him off in another five years. That does not necessarily have to happen. There is a way for that which makes sense to stand."

In the year preceding Zero Hour, readers will continue to have ample opportunity to look for clues to the nature of the upcoming timescap What is happening now in Valor will have definite ramifications on

the Legion books, and ultimately the entire Universe," confides Carlson. "You're seeing some clues in Valor that indicate the Universe is not quite right in terms of its' time orientation. It's not obvious vet, but it will be at the end of the six-issue "D.O.A." storyline. I'm also encouraging other editors to play with this idea; and they seem pretty gung ho for it. We may not see a lot of the things popping up until shortly before Zero Hour starts, but I think you'll see some interesting things."

New series have been launched following most of DC's major crossover series, and Zero Hour is no exception. At this point, no details on specific titles are available; however, DC has no plans to do a blanket relaunch of existing series. In other words, it one month features a flood ot Zero issues. It doesn't mean that the next month will see a flood of number ones.

Jurgens, in particular, is not a big fan of retro-numbering: "I think it gives you a short-term victory, but you may suffer from it in the longterm. When I took over Justice League, for example, there was some talk of starting over with a new # 1, and the only reason I would have embraced that is because I didn't want to do what Keith [Giffen. the plotter for issues 1-601 was doing before me. I'm not that kind of a writer. Ultimately I just said 'Aaah! It's issue 61, that's close enough."

"It we get so terribly casual that we go back and start renumbering everything, I think we do a disservice to the fans. There's no denying it's a quick shot in sales and you get a lot of new kids to pick up the book,

but it it's not any good the readers aren't going to be around anyway.

Publishers of long-running series good places for new readers to jump in. With Zero Hour, it seems like DC really means it. A

#### Crisis? What:

Crisis?

who' was who's father or mother or who vibrated in from which Earth.

Of course, the best laid plans often

of this post-Crisis of confidence came Grant Morrisori's Animal Man. One cover features the Psycho Pirate, who



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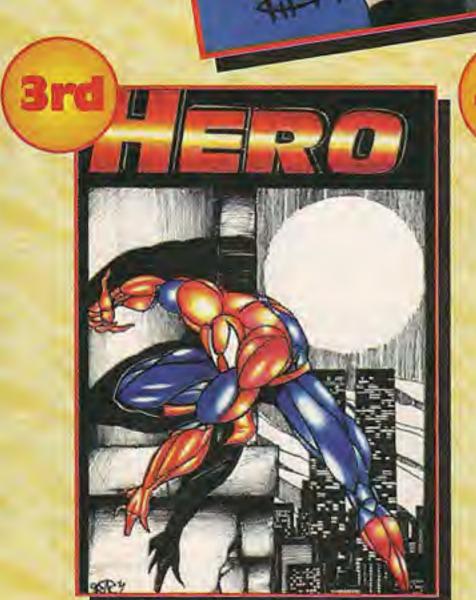
**image.** • We're Just Gettin' Warmed Up!

# WINNER!

Thomas Johnson of Gillette, WY sent us his own take on that HERO uniform that appeared on Cerebus a few issues back. We like this version even better, but we can't convince the women around the offices that it should be the company uniform. Tom wins Fantastic Four #12!



A very cool but very unlikely clash of the titans; Groo and Faust, gets Chris Fournier of Milford, CT a Platinum Madman.



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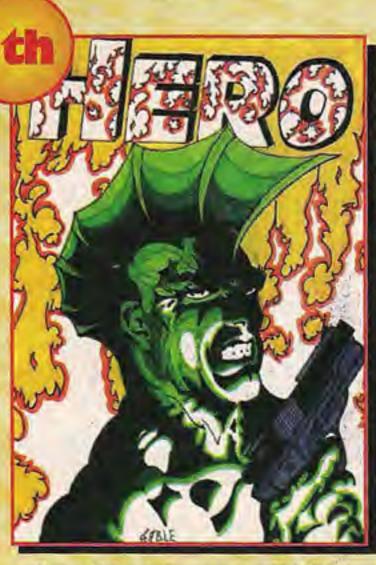
A anime inspired Spidey gets Benjie Coloma of Sacramento, CA a Plat Q-Unit.



HERO guys,

CHAUVANISTS!

A bunch of tough guys gets a Plat Batman for Rob Sacchetto of Sudbury, Ontario

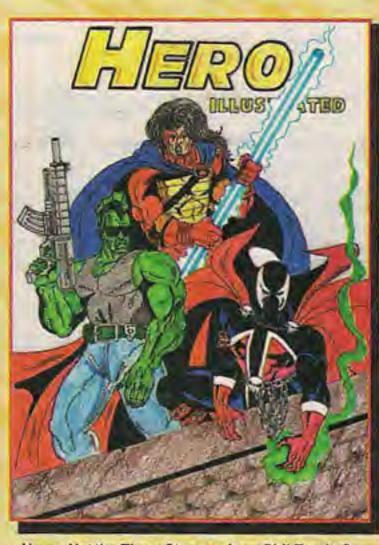


Savage Dragon in flames earns a Plat Aliens/ Predator for Sean Sable of Venice, FL.

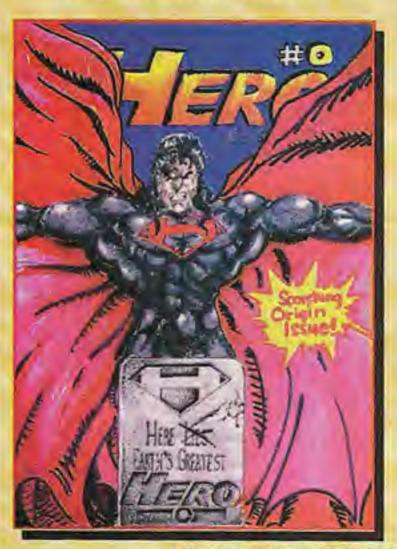
# READER COVER ART GALLERY

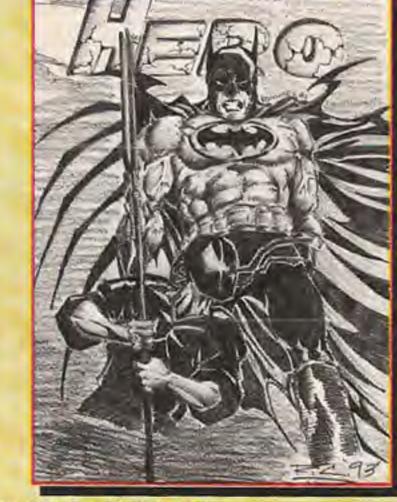


Ralph Ramil M. Mendoza of Aurora Hill, Phillipines treats us to Hulk Vs. Pitt.



Nope. Not the Three Stooges from Phil Travis S. Trono of Las Pinas, Phillipines.





A double header from Rommel Chua of Sta Ana, Minala, Phillipines. First it's Supes up from the grave. Second, it's a great portrait of Batman and Grendel.



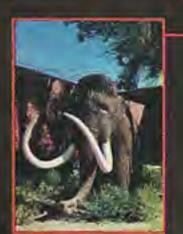
Funny business from Clark Campbell of Smithville, Ontario.



Aliens carnage unbridled from Adam Brooks (age 6) of Greenville, IL.

# POSTCARDS OF THE GODS

Just when you think you've seen everything, along comes a postcard that does to your brain what an atomic bomb can do to your neighborhood. Put on the tin foil, sit back and take a long terrified look at this month's postcard barrage.



Flora Beeley of Murray, UT sent us this card to remind us that giants once walked the Earth. Or maybe she's just showing

us her pet dog, Foo Foo. We may never know the truth.



This laughs-o-plenty gag card comes to us from Andy Gucker of Granton, WI. We all laughed until our scars erupted. What scars I won't tell you.



Reptiles really know how to have a good time. Thanks to Marjorie E. Battis of Venice,



I don't know how Scott Willmarth of Monticello, NY got it, but this is an actual picture of an average day working at Sendai Publishing. I'm the guy in the beret.

What are you waiting for? Check out the contests and start sending the cards today!

# HERO SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT #4: MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER

It's time to take a shot at another one of those characters who went through a recent clothing change. This time, we want you to redesign Magnus, Robot Fighter. Should it be a return to a simpler design or should he wear even more armor? Should he become the really last Rai? You decide! Just send us your drawings. We'll select the best and have all our readers vote. Get started today.

Next issue will see the winner of the new Supes contest and 12 Venom designs for you to vote for.

Send your new Magnus designs to:

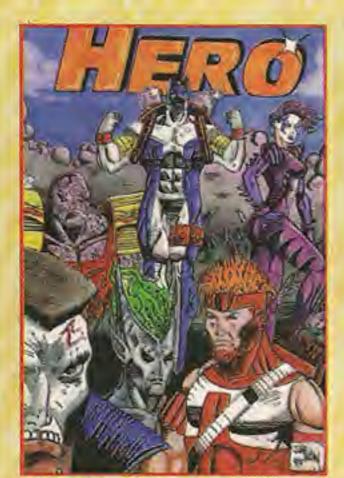
**HERO Special Assignment #4** c/o HERO Illustrated 1920 Highland Ave. Suite 268 Lombard, IL 60148

# SOMEONE SAY SQUEEEE?!!



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Youngblood stands around from Jed Wahl of Calals, ME.

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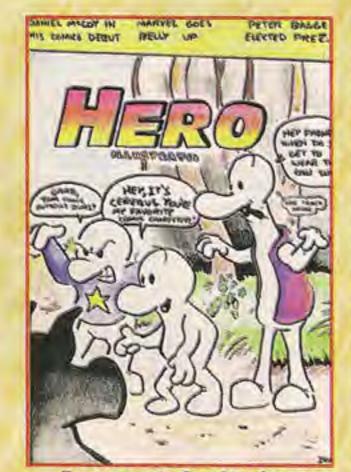
James McDonald of Quincy, MA

casts Pitt's vote for best mag.

TG2-NO MORE MISTAKES

More than meets the eye from

Erik Sturdevant of Pullman, WA.



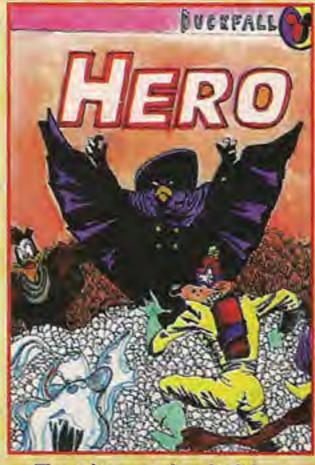
Bones meets Cerebus from Daniel McCoy of Eureka, IL.



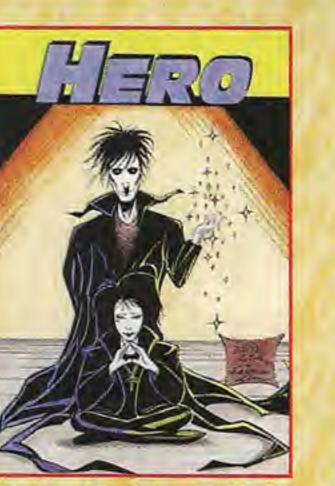
Bert "Mickasso" Kimura of Seattle, WA has Bats Ice Bane.



A cool exec with a heart of steel from Craig White of Houston, TX.



The grim avenging duck from Lincoln Edwards, Spokane, WA.



Dream and Death from David and Sean Lim of Galesburg, IL.



Bowling legends from Juan Julio III of San Diego, CA.



The nearly invisible costumed Girl from J. Gravel, Scarsborough, ON.



Zealot courtesy of Prayoon Piyawannapong of Silver Spring, MD.



it's like art, man. We dig from Rafael Czeczot of Brooklyn, NY.



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#### THE HERO WIERVIEW



Our HERO

into Ivar.

inten/iewer ran

VALIANT'S

time traveller

immortal

in a quaint little

har down in the

Chelsea area of New

York City, He evidently

lumps and I took

time to communicate with him.

Sitting there sipping on a stout

English ale, Ivar opened up and

let us in on a few of his personal.

secrets. He was surprisingly can-

did with us, at least up until the

very end of the interview.

advantage of his down-

was between temporal

IVAR: You're obviously referring to my brothers, Gilad and Aram.

Most people refer to them as the Eternal Warrior and Armstrong, of Archer and Armstrong fame.

IVAR: Yeah, I know. That's what they go by in this time frame.

That's right, being immortal as you all are, it's understandable that you might have different names in times past.

IVAR: While that's true, we almost always refer to each other by our original names, Gliad, Aram and Ivar. Sometimes, If I run into them in a nasty situation, and I don't know what all they've been up to, I'll just refer to them as my brother, until I know the score. We don't like to advertise our unique abilities or our longevity. Especially me.

So you like to keep a low profile? IVAR: I have to. The last thing I want to do in a time period Is cause any disturbances that might radically change the flow of history. If I'm not careful, I could affect my own past or future, not to mention everyone else's.

It must be hard not to be living your life in a linear fashion, like all the rest of us.

IVAR: Well, at the very least, it certainly makes life interesting for me. Sometimes, I'll be meeting a person for the first time and find out that he or she has already known me for years. Likewise, I've run into people who I've associated with on a number of occasions and all of a sudden on one jump, they won't have any idea who I am. That's because it will be the first time they ever met me.

That's got to be tricky, especially if it's someone who doesn't like you.

IVAR: Yeah, I've had to learn to think on my feet. I never know going into a situation what a person may or may not know about me.

Well, that brings up another fault. Just how long have you been time jumping?

IVAR: You mean how many years have I been doing this, or how far I've gone in one direction?

How many years.

IVAR: I've been jumping for a few centuries. Some jumps I'll hang around for a few years. Others, I leave as soon as possible. Although I was born first, actually years before Gilad and Aram, in some perfods I'm actually millenniums younger than either of them.









How old were you when you made your first jump?

IVAR: Let's see, I left my family in Mesopotamia when I was about 14 years olds, so that would have made me about 19 or 20 years old my first time out.

How do you do it?

IVAR: You mean, how do I jump?

Yeah, how is it possible?

IVAR: Well, let me see if I can put it in layman's terms. Hand me that cocktail napkin and let me borrow your pen.

(At this stage in the interview, Ivar proceeds to draw a straight line onto the napkin.)

IVAR: So think of time as a line, with one end representing the beginning of time and the other end representing the end of time. In between are all the time periods arranged in chronological order.

OK.

IVAR: Now in all the infinite possibilities of time and space, one can assume, according to the mathematical equations of chaos theory, that sometimes, in someplaces, time can and will fold in upon itself just like this nap-kln...

(Ivar has taken the napkin and crunches it up into a ball. He rolls it around between his palms.)

> IVAR: ...And now all the places

and times where the line intersects or folds over and touches itself cause an "arc" or "fold" to happen. This connects two very different parts of the timeline together, out of chronological order. I'm able to predict and detect where where these time folds will occur. By knowing where these "arcs" or "folds" are going to appear, it's a simple matter of being in the right spot at the right time to jump through them and step into another time period.

That's amazing, Just how do you figure this out?

IVAR: I use a Tachyon Compass, which is a navigational device.

I've never heard of a Tachyon Compass. Did you invent it yourself?

IVAR: Sorry, I've got to keep that confidential.

No problem. Okay then, if you can't say exactly how you do it, can you tell us why you do it?

IVAR: I'm...looking for someone. And someplace, a long time ago from here. Uh, look, I've really got to run. We're going to have to cut this short.

(At this point in the conversation, it is obvious that this last question has touched a nerve with him, and Ivar gets up to leave.)

One last question before you go, Ivar. Since you've been to the future (as well as the past), any tips or revelations on what's coming up for us mortals in our soon to be present?

IVAR: Well, normally I never tell anyone about their future, but in your case, I'll make an exception. So let me ask you, since you've been chainsmoking in this interview, are you thinking about quitting smoking any time soon?

Actually I have thought about it. You know, for health reasons.

IVAR: Well, don't bother.

(At that, Ivar begins heading for the door, with a grim smile on his face.)

Hey, walt a minute. Do you mean we'll find a cure for cancer or...or...you don't mean because I won't be around to...HEY! WAITI Don't leave me hanging here. Ivar...IVAR!!

(He leaves me hanging on that thought as he turns, waves and walks out through the front door. I order a double martini and light up another smoke to get rid of the shakes in my hands.)

-THE END-



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# 60 FIGURE!

THE AUTHORITY OR ACTION PIGURES, KITS AND COLLECTIBLE TOYS

By Frank Kurtz



There's a lot ot stuff this time and a limited amount of space, Let's get to it.

#### SCARY...1

Probably the coolest action tigures we have seen coming out this year are Hasbro's versions

ot Tim Burton's Nightmare Before Christmas characters. There is a 12 piece set in the series ot reguler plastic figures. The

characters in that assortment are (as shown on this page) Jeck, Santa (the first time he's ever been an action figure that I can think of), Evil Scientist,



Werewolf, The Mayor (with two faces like any good politician), Sally, Jack as Santa, Oogie Boogie (the "bad guy" of the movie), Behemoth and Lock, plus Stock & Barrel

(trouble making trick-

or-treaters). Each figure comes with a tombstone with his or her name on it and accessories. Oogie Boogie comes with a bunch of

creepy bugs and Santa comes with a load of presents. Besides the action figures, there will be four characters offered in what they call their "soft" tormet. The four are Sally (has removable arms, leos and head), Jack (talks



and comes with his ghostly dog, Zero), Santa (who is also a hand puppet), and Oogle Boogle (with a glow in the dark bug print on him end loaded with more plastic bugs).

The figures look great, This is really what Playmates' Addams Family action tigures could have been.

#### 6.1.30E, RODOTS AND HOUGH DUYS

Hasbro is also continuing their popular WWF Wrestlers line with new figures of Lex Luger, Yokozuna, Mr. Perfect, Bam Bam Bigelow, Bret

Hart, Undertaker, Million Dollar Man,
Scott Sleiner,
Rick Steiner,
Hacksaw Jim
Duggan,
Brutus "The
Barber"
Beetrake,
and the
creepiest
wester of all,

Clown. These figures could very well make some great custom pieces in the future.

The popular Transformers line will be growing by an additional 21 tigures. We get letters from you telling us how much you enjoy this line and will be showing more of them next



time (provided

we have enough

thrues to thrive in part due to the very popular Street Fighter II figures edded to the line.

The G.I. Joe Battle Corps series

will increase by 13 new figures including new versions of Flint, Major Bludd end Stalker. The G.l.Joe Star Brigade will be getting 7 new figures including a new Cobra Commander, Roadblock and Duke.

Hall Ot Fame 12" figures continue to generate excitement. New figures.

sched-

uled to



be added this year include Battle Peck Major Bludd, Gattlin' Blastin' Rock N' Roll, Battle Bazooka Flint and Karate Choppin' Snake Eyes. There are also two Combat-Camo Figures. They are Duke and

Roadblock in their "secret body cemouflage." Look tor the remaining Street Fighter tigures to come out soon and a new vehicle, the Karate Chopper.



Recently, we noticed some changes made in the Toy Biz X-Men line of tigures that were not previously mentioned. Archangel now has grey-metallic



Doink the

wings. Cyclops is now in his original colors rather than the funky "X-Factor" version he was first released in. The mold lines for the old figure are still there and are painfully obvious. There is a set of X-Men Hall Of Fame figures which include

these two, a new blueish iceman and the first release of Professor X. 1 mention this for those of you who thought you had finally

completed your X-Men figure collec-

#### **CUSTOM FIGURES** OF THE STARS

Lest you worry that you might be unusual in your infetuation with customizing your ection figures, just tell doubters and



comics. TV end movies like to do it. Paul Dini, producer and writer of Batman: The Animated Series sent us e picture of his custom Harley Quinn figure. He created it from a Barble

doll. The reason: The toy companies don't like making female figures for their boys' action figure lines, because "they don't sell." Here's a hint to the toy companies: we're getting e lot more female custom figures of late. How about trying a few good quality female figures like Harley Quinn? You'll make a lot of people very happy.

Yow! I'm running out of room here. We really do read every letter end are working on a lot of your suggestions. Keep those photos of your figures coming. A

#### THE FIGURE MAKERS TALKING SCULPEE WITH CLAY MOORE

Clay's impressive credits include Honzon's w Walverine, Graphitti's Vampirella, Kitch Sink's Xenozoic Tales Hannah and Sabretooth Bronze, Screamin' Kits' Flash Gordon and Nexus forthcoming from Dark Horse. We chalted briefly with Clay to get his side of sculpting and how he got into the figure business.

I'd been showing my bronzes at various science fiction conventions. My work was seen, end I got a call seeing if I wanted to do a Vampiralla figure. I had been into comios, sci enca liction, fantasy and that sort of thing. To be given the apportunity to do a figure like that was just great. It sort of snowballed and I started gotting more calls for other figures.

Before this, was your work primarily fine art

what you want to avoid at all costs. I do a very simple armature. I usually don't build up into the hands, feet or anything. I use supporte to synid a very thick build-up on the armature avoid a very thick build-up on the armature before baking. I go real light or thin with it. How importent is knowing anatomy?

Do you build a basic form and than bake

You have to be careful in the armeture if you

the wrists, ankles, shoulder blades and clavi-

cles, for exemple. You have to be real careful, because you get into the nightmare of having

to cut away or grind down the armature. That's

build it up a little bit wrong in one place of enother, you'll find the armature coming up on you. That can happen easily at thin areas like

Sculpee on it to solidity it?

If you're an artist that works with the human figure in a dynamic or realistic way, you have to have a good understanding because people who look at it who don't know a lot about unatiomy are still going to pick up that some-thing is wrong or that something doesn't look right. It's going to show through. You makly need to do your homework. You need to kno our snalomy balora you attempt to carry out a full figure. You need to do etudies,

> What was the foughest ligure you had to do?

Probably Hannah Dundaa for Xanozoic Tales, I had nevar done a sabretcoth tiger before. Il was a real challanga to get the sabretooth right and also to do a very beautiful, serene fig-ure in the woman. She had to have a specific look. While if was a portrait, it wasn't a por-trait of someone living but rather a portrait of someona in another artist's mind. Some figures in selves can ba difficult: lika Hannah and the sabretooth alona; but making them work togather was gulla a challenge.

World Science Fiction How did you hook up with

I was doing my own bronzes

Washington, DC or showing

them at regional shows, larger east and west coast shows or

and figures, and showing them in gallaries in Carmel and

Through a triend of mine who knew the Honzon people. I business or who was doing what, I had seen some of the figures and knew some good

Work was being done. A couple of photos of my work were given by a friend to Horizon, and they gave ma a call. I sent them a video of what I had done up to that point, which was Nexus and Vampirella. They asked me what I would like to do. Whel about a new Wolvarine figure? I had done a bust as a study or exsa. Thay ranly liked it and decided to do a second one

What medium do you use to create your

I'va been used to working in ctay. I made my own plasticene clay. However, Horizon neaded a hard copy sent and rather than taking a mold off a resin hard casting of the figura and ship-ping, I went ahead and did it in Sculpee. That n't my first sculpture in Sculpee, but it was largest I had done. Now, I think the stuff is great and use it for just about everything

What sculpting process do you use?

The first thing you want to do is the armature basically the skeleton of the figure. It's the sup port and anchor I do my sculptures more as an additive-reductive process. I build a figure Up in an exaggereted form and then cut it away until I reach the look that I want. For som sculptors who work in wood or stone, it's a lefuly reductive process. Other sculptors will build up until they get what they went. I do both, I add and take eway until I get what I

Any other characters you'd love to do?

I grew up on the Marval Silver Age characters and Silver Age comics. I'd have to say the old fron Man. The fron Man where he had more anetomy. Ha was more sleek. You saw more muscles. However, the one piece I would do anytime anypiace is the Silver Surfer, I think the Silver Surfer is the closes! thing to fine arts in comics. He works so well with the board that visually it would be such a beautiful piece. He's very heroic and such a beautiful figure

What are your future projects?

Right now I'm working on J.J. Sachs from Sachs and Violens by Pater David. That will be released pratty soon. I'm also working on Ming the Merciless for Screamin', a Savage Dragon figure with Erik Larsen, the liret in an annual series of bronze figures of Betty Page and Bill Liebowitz's Flaxes

Any advice for young sculptors?

Creste each piece as the best work that you can do. Try to learn something from each ece, Don't be afreid to experiment or take rances. Don't undervalue yourself and your work. Artists go through a phase of giving away work. Too many artists, sculptors, and pointers always undervalue their work, Also, keep a real good photo portfolio of your work Don't ever give eway or sell a piece of your work without cetting a photo of it.

#### **ACTION FIGURE PRICE GUIDE**



#### MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS

Metlel 1984 While there had been attempts to do so in the past, this was the first big step Marvel took into merchandising their characters as figures. The toy line intentronally coincided with the popular limited series from Marvel. This was Jim. Shooter's way of taking a childish concapi and making it more paletable for The regular Marvel tan. The comic was a success, but the toy line didn't really connect with the toy buying public. Three figures: Icemen, Constrictor and Electro were only released in Europe. There were quite a few of them, but they have had their shere of difficulties being sent over. All prices are mint on mint cards. Loose figures go for 20-50 percent depending on ranty of figures. These figures are larrly easy to find still, except the European releases

	LO	HI
Baron Zemo	30 00	35.0
Captain America	12.00	25.0
Constrictor	50 00	50 0
Daredevil	26.00	30.0
Doctor Doom	10.00	15.0
Dector Octopus	10.00	15.0
Electro	50.00	50.0
Falcon	40.00	65.0
Hobgoblin	46.00	50.0
iceman	40.00	75.0
Iron Man	18.00	25.0
Kang	8 00	15.0
Magneto	12 00	
Spider-Men	40 00	65.0
Black Costume		
Spider-Man	15 00	40.0
Red & Blue Coslume		
Wolvenne	30.00	40.0
Black Claws		
Wolvenna	30.00	65 (
Silver Claws		
Caplain America, Daredevil,	50 00	85 (
Spider-Man Black Suit Set		
Other sets like above may		
have been sold.		
Vehicles		

Joom Chapper	35.00	75.0
Joom Cycle	15.00	25.0
oom Cycle with Dr. Doom Figure	25.00	35.0



Doam Roller	20.00	20.00
Doom Slar Glider with Kang	49.00	85.00
Freedom Fighler	20.00	40.00
Star Dart Glider	55.00	60.00
with Spider Man in Black		
Costume		
Star Dert with Dr. Doom	50.00	50.00
Tower Of Doorn Playset	20.00	20.00
Turbocopter	30.00	30.00
Turbo Cycle .	10.00	25.00



#### MARVEL SUPER HERDES

Toy Biz 1990-present In 1990, Toy Biz released their first balch of Marvel Super Hero figures This was almost immediately after their III-conceived Balman and DC Superheroes series of ligures that were generally a disappointment both in looks and lunction. When these figures were first released, the word going around was that the Punisher figure was rare. It wasn't, and when a deluge of them came oul, the figure's price dropped. Invisible Woman is very hard to find because of low production quan-Illies and hoarding by dealers. As always, keep an eye out in your local toy store and avoid getting appeal of These are just the Marvel Superheroes. not the X-Men (which is considered a different lins of toys); which will be cov-

ared in a future installment.		
Annihulus	5.00	5.0
Ceptain America	5.00	12.0
Deredevil	22.00	35.0
Deathlok	5.00	18 0
Dr. Doom	10.00	16.0
Dr. Octopus	5.00	20.0
Green Gobhn	6.00	14.0
Humen Torch	6.00	9.0
The Incredible Hulk	4 00	5.0
The Incredible Hulk Super	20.00	20.0
Size		
Invisible Woman	35,00	50 €
Iron Man	6.00	12.0
Mr. Fantastic	5.00	160
Punisher Cap Gun Version	5 00	25 €
Punisher Super Size (Mail	30.00	30.0
order premium)		
Punisher With Sound	5 00	12,0
Silver Surfer (Flat Silver	15.00	20.0
Finish)		
Silver Surfer (Chrome)	5.00	5.0
Spider-Man Suction Cup	5.00	20.0
Hands		





	-	
Spider-Man Super Size	20.00	20.00
Spider-Man Multi-Joinled	5.00	5.00
Spider-Man Spider-Tracer	5.00	5.00
Spider-Man Web-Climbing	12 00	12.00
Spider-Man Web-Shooting	12.00	25.00
Thing	5.00	10.00
Thor	5.00	10.00
Venom with Stime Squirt	12.00	15.00
Venom with Water Souirt	5.00	5.00
Venom with Flicking Tongue & Chest Plece	10.00	11.00
Venom Large Size	30.00	30.00

20.00 27.00

Vehicles and Accessories Spider-Man Dragsler



Captain America Turbo	20.00	27.00
Coups		
Hulk Rage Cage	20.00	22 00
Spider Man Attack Tower	10.00	22 00
Training Center	30.00	40 00

#### Electronic Telking Mar SuperHeroes

Toy Biz 1991		
Talking Cyclops	7.00	15 00
Talking Hulk	7.00	15.00
Talking Magneto	7.00	15.00
Talking Punisher	7.00	10,00
Talking Spider-Man	7.00	15,00
Talking Venom	9 00	20.00
Talking Wolverine	7.00	15,00



# IT FIGURES!

#### **VOUR CUSTOM** FIGURES AND KITS



#### WOODER SHILKIE

Ved S. Mul of Grand Blanc Mi is "sick of toy companies not making female action figures." In his letter he hamours the fact that what flaurae are produced like Storm and Invisible Woman, are impossible to find. As a regult he created this She-Hulk from a large Wonder Women doll. Sorry the prize len't a She-Creature



#### CAUST #1 Scott

Kautman of Dubuque, IA save this floure was created trom a Toy Bly Wolverine II fig. uro \*! filed down the points on his head and

alued two tooth pick helfs in their place, I repainted the flaure and attached a piece of red tabric for the cape \* Thanks for



#### AZRACI

David Acurs of Lennoy CA sent us this cool custom job. He etertad with a Batman Paturne Batman floure, armor from Bondo auto hady filler, arms from a

Kenner Robin Hood Visionany hands a custom cloth cape and cowl, and painted carefully. Personally, I'd suggest sirbruching and a small paint



#### SCORPION STRIKES

From the popular video game Mortel Kombet and Jerry Spaulding of Levant, ME comes my favorite character from the game. He made it from a Masters Of The Universe figure, spray primer and a hand-sewn outfit, Jerry, "Get over



MINNERS

#### Each of the people whose work is on this page is receiving a Horizon Creature kit signed and #ed by Toishiro Kiya, You could be here next!



#### **MAXX & PAUST #7**

Jeff Hunt of Fligt MF knows how to make great figures out of some of the least desirable figures on the market right now. I wish he had told us all that he had done to get these figures to what they ended up being, but they looked so good, we had to show them. Maxx was made from a Hasbro Hulk Hogan figure and "a lot of effort." Faust was created from an American Gladiators Gemini, Jeff says that Madman is next. We can hardly wait!



TITANS O'PLENTY John M. Munisk of Laneya KS must love the Titana Nightwing was created from a Super Powers (SP) Green Lantern, Speedy from a Toy Biz Riddler, Aqualed from a SP Aquaman, Kid Flash from a Secret Wars Capt. America, and Wonder Girl from a SP Wonder Woman. The wings on Kid Flash's were sculpted and molded. John suggests to customizers that for floures that have extraneous humps, simply take the time to sand them down to get the figure you really want to make. Thanks for the tips, Issues ahead will address customizing in depth.





#### LIMITED EDITION HORIZON WOLVERINE KITI

The It Figures! prize locker is open, again! This time the great people at Horizon have given all of you the chance to win one of six Wolverine soft vinv! kits signed and numbered by the sculptor. Clay Moore, Clay has recreated Wolvie at his ferocious best and it could be yours. There're only six, though! The only way to win them is to send us photos of your custom action figures and/or model kits. Please include tips. Get started today!

#### HERE HE COMES, HERE COMES



CIRCLE #132 ON READER SERVICE CARD

### THE SECRET REVEALED



the trade paperback



SHADOWHRWK

FACT FILE costume design, who's who, etc. . .

note: these books will NOT be polybagged!

on sale December • only from *image*.

# MARK A. NELSON'S

#### Chapter 4: The Basics

#### BASIC DRAWING TERMS

CONTOUR: The line that describes the outside edges of the form.

LINE VARIATION / LINE WEIGHT: The change in the thickness or thinness of the line.

LINE DIRECTION: The direction in which the line moves. LINE SPACING: The space between your lines.

CROSS CONTOUR: A series of lines which cut across the form and are used to describe movements on that surface







#### In this example, using a cube:

- The contour line is consistent.
- 2) The contour line has variation. 3) The line spacing and line variation is used to create
- value.
- 4) The line spacing and line variation is used to create value and texture

#### in this example, using a rock: 1) The contour line is an even

- value or consistent.
- 2) The contour line has varia tions to create lights and darks.
- 3) The cross contour has line vari ation to create lights and darks. 4) The contour line and line varia
  - tion is used to create value and texture.





#### A) Line direction:

In this example the eye will move in the direction of the lines. The lines follow the form, on either the cube's horizontal or vertical axis and are evenly spaced.



In this example, the value can be created by how close the lines are placed next to each other. The closer the lines, the darker the value, Here again, a line direction will influence how you look at each cube.







# TRY EXPERIMENTING HOW CAN YOU USE LINE VARIATION TO CREATE LIGHTS AND DARKS ON YOUR CHARACTER?



#### THE DICTURE DI ANE

This is the two dimensional surface on which you draw to create an allicity of a three-dimensional world. This illusional space can be broken up into three distinct planes. The foreground is that which is closest to the viewer, the background is the furthest away, and the middle ground is that which is between the two. (Figure A)

One of the questions I ask myself as I create a panel in the story is, "Do I want the viewer to come into my world or do I want the image to come out at the viewer?"





A) as objects move back into space, they (as a general rule of thumb) will get smaller. If you stack a series of shapes that get smaller (Fig. A) with space between them, they will appear to move back into space. But they can also appear to move up and down creating a tlat two-dimensional teel,

B) Overlapping the shapes will move them more convincingly back into space. This gives the viewer a starting



space. This gives a liet viewer a stating point and a step-by-step backward motion toward the smallest shape.

C) Perhaps the most believable view, because we tend to look in a zig-zag fashion. We don't look up and down, but focus one point to the next in a broken inc.



 In this illustration, I've set up a large figure in the foreground, a full figure lizard in the middleground, and a tower in the background. Now when I link, I'll push the space in three different ways.



2) The figure in the foreground has a heavier contour line and more detail to bring him forward. The lizard has the next thickest line. The background has the lightest line. The darks then advance and the lights recede.



3) Here we move in the exact opposite way. The figure is the lightest and is contrasted against two darker elements, the lizard and the tower. So here the lights advance and the darks recede.



4) The third solution places the darks in the foreground by almost silhouetting the figure and again, the middleground and background are lighter.



In this panel from Feud, you move from a light background to a dark foreground. I used the dark figure in the foreground to create an aminous mond.







The two panels at the left use the opposite light/dark movements. In the first panel, the figure comes out of the

dark toward the light, in the second panel, the figures become dark forms in the light.

At the upper right. The Stokers work in the toundries, if they are in focus, the middle ground and the background become softer or lighter as seen through a mid.

In creating the two illos below, I always try to play with as many different textures as possible. The first once set in the Stokers strip mine (hence at the equipment) and the second is set in the open desert. Both these drawings challenged me to use line variation, like direction and line spacing in creating all the different types of surfaces. They range from hairy to smooth, rough to craggy, organic to inorganic and dark to light.





Now, it's time for you to get started. Don't sit on your duff waiting for image to give you a comic, get to work! Write in with your questions. Next issue, Mark is going to take a look at the importance of perspective.

CLITAIRE

When you Fight Against Evil You do It

GERARD JONES
JEFF JOHNSON BARBARA KAALPERG NOVEMBER 93





### **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW**



# THE SECRET REVEALED" (the trade paperback)

only from

note: these books will NOT be polybagged!

elcome back to HERO
Illustrated's newest colurm, where you get the lowdown
on the hottest sci-li/lantasyhorror/animated tilms and shows
every month. Due to circumstances beyond my control, the
special in-depth looks at Viper
and Tekwar will be delayed until
later. Instead, I'll cach you up
with the best news bits, only here
at Andy Mangels' Hollywood
Herces...

#### LONG, LONG AGO....

Biggest news of the month is George Lucas's doubleannouncement of the future of his lim trilogies, In mid-September, he announced that some work has already begun on the three Star Wars prequels (he's starting on the scripts soon), and that they will be shot simultaneously in the next four years. The new Star Wars tilm is expected to premiere on May 25, 1997, the 20-year anniversary of the first Star Wars film is

Lucas also announced a new Indiana Jones Iliok, set to star Harrison Forel The script is now being readled by Jeb Stuart (Die Hard, The Fuglifive), while none other then co-creator Steven Spielberg will direct this one! No start date has been announced, but expect Indy 4 to go into production mid-newly year.

#### ABC

Since Lois and Clark: The New Advantures Of Superman doesn't broadcast tilles, leave it to the Hollywood HERO to dish up these "code names" for your; videotapes: "Pilot" (#1, 9-12-93; "Strange Visitor" (#2, 9-26-83); "Neverending Battle" (#3, 10-393); "In Looking Through You" (#4, 10-19-93); "Requiem For A Superman" (#5, 10-17-93); and "I've Got A Crush on You" (#6, 10-24-93).

This month's episodes include "Smart Kids" (10-31-93), which finds Lex Luthor feeding smart drugs to troubled teenagers at a Metropolis school. Only problem is they're smarter than he is now.



November 7 will be what is probably my pick as the best episode of the season (at least so far). "The Green, Green Glow of Home," Written by Bryce Zabel, this sequel to "Strange Visitor" puts Clark on his road to discovering his Kryptonian heritage. Bad ouv Trask is back and he's not only discovered Clark's identity and captured his parents, but he's gotten a hold of the only piece of Kryptonite on Earth. Look for a stunning two-minute tisttight between a de-nowered Clark and Trask, which will leave television's Standards and Practices department swallowing their tongues and sorely test Clark's limits as to whether or not he will kill. All this, plus Jimmy Olsen gets a signal watch!

Next up on November 14 is "Man of Steel Bars." A heat wave has hit Metropolis and it appears Superman's nowers may be behind it! Placed in prison, will Superman break the laws of the land, or will be stay behind steet bars and let Lois clear his name? Following this are three more episodes (in uncertain airing order): "Pheremone, My Lovely." "Witness" and "Honeymoon in Metronotis." Next issue: the lowdown on whether Lois and Clark gets picked up for a full season. plus some of the incredible plans for the second season (if it comes to be), as well as news about quest appearances by a certain-caped crusader of the 60s and 50s screen Superman star Jack Larson.

#### CBS

Last month, I told you ebout big changes to the cast of Bob. One that got left out was a new member to the greeting card staff, Eric Allan Kramer as Whitey Vendenburt. Comic fans may recognize Kramer not only from his role in *Robin Hood: Men In Tights*, but also his starring role as Thor in *The Incredible Hulk Returns* telefilm! Also, Tim Curry will not be joining the cast after all, despite earlier reports.

#### NBC

NBC's SeaQuest DSV is sinking ABC's Lois and Clark in the ratings, despile everyone's predictions to the contrary. The pilot blasted Superman's premiers, while the second week even beat out the start of the Emmy Awards! It wasn't until the third week that radings went down slightly—but now Insiders ere betting that SeaQuest has better see-legs than was originally thought, especially with the addtion of Tribeca creetor David Burke as executive producer.

She-Hulk telefilm? Oliver Stone producing? Come back next month...

#### FOX

X-Men's second season meets the halfway mark this month, with super-guest-stars galare. Here's swhat can you expect to see in November? "Whatever It Takes", (45, November 6) spoiliphs Som"s bettle against The Shadow King and reveals her origin. "Reo Dawn" (44, Nov. 13) will be a battle royale between Colossus and Orega Red, with Darkstar from the Soviet Super Soldiers quest-startino.

In "Repo Man," (#6, Nov. 20) Alpha Flight ions the quest-star rolser (with Guardian, Northstar, Aurora, Sasquatch, Snowbird, and Puck—no Marina) for an episode which highlights Wolverine's origin, including sequences showing how he got his claws! "X-Franlly Yours" (#6, Nov. 27) tells the secrets behind Gambir mysterious origin, based directly on Marvel's uccoming Gambir mini-series."

The Simpsons continues its fifth season with more voice guest-stars than ever. Besides those I listed in HERO #4, upcoming voices include singer

Taylor, and Kathleen Turner as a toy tycoon who releeses a politically incorrect doll. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin helps Ded go into orbit in an episode called "Deep Space Homer." while Winona Ryder will become a schoolvard rival for Lisa. Meanwhile. on November 4, check out "Marge On The

Lam." a

Thelma and

Pamela Reed).

Jemes

Louise spoof in love—and which finds the blue-haired Simpson's matriarch on a road trip with a female sidekick (the voice of actress



From HBO's Full Eclipse: They were young end in love-and probably in Incredible pain.

#### SYNDICATED AND CABLE

On November 27, be sure to check HBO for their howling new horror thriller, Full Eclipse., Mario Van Peebles is Max Dire, a hotshot police officer who's seduced by sexy co-worker Casey Spencer (Patsy Kensit). She talks him into joining en elite crime-fighting unit that fights the bad guys through superhuman means. The unit is led by Detective Adam Garou (Bruce Payne), who's really a werewolf! But to stop him when things go wrong, will Dire have to become a creature of the night himself? Find out in this dark fantasy. directed by Hellraiser III's Anthony Hickox!

The final season of HBO's Tales From The Crypt continues this month, Wednesday nights from 10-10:30 pm. Look for a new batch of fright fests to come screaming your way this Novemher.

"Well Cooked Hams" (November 3) stars Martin Sheen, Billy Zane and Maryam D'Abo in a story about a down-on-his-luck magician who kills a fellow magic man to steal his act. "Creep Course" (Nov. 10) is a murmmythemed episode with stars Anthony Michael Hall and Jeffrey Jones in a tale of a girl who'll do anything to get good grades in school. "Came The Dawn" (Nov. 17) stars Brooke Shields as a beautiful thief stalked by a mysterious stranger. Perry King and Michael J. Pollard (Superboy's Mr. Mxyzptlk) also star. Ending the month, "Oil's Well That Ends Well" (Nov. 24) pairs John Kassir (the voice of the Cryptkeeper) with Lou Diamond Phillips as two con artists separated by their just for the beautiful Priscille Preslev!

Peter Bagge's cult hit comic, Hate, may soon be animated.



# AND MANORE FOR THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF

Colossal Pictures, producers of MTV's Liquid Television, will be producing the animated 'toon from a story by Bagge. He's also writing two other animated shorts for them, non-Hate-related.

Watch for TNT's The Cisco
Kid, starring Jimmy Smits and
Cheech Marin. This TV film—
shot from storyboards by Bob
arlist Paul Power—was elso a
comic strip by Jose Salinas.

The Sci-Fi Channel's second original film premieres on November 20. Official Denial finds Parker Stevenson as a man abducted by allens, who finds himself rescued and then kidnapped by the U.S. Air Forcel Erin Gray stars as his wile, while the change was the second of the premier of the prem





mated Exo-Squad, things heat un for the Necessians In "Scorchad Vanus" (#8 Nov 6) March and crew are on a collision course with the sun and Nara finds shocking news at home: In "Sabotage" (#9, Nov. 13). Marsh end James join forces to capture Algarnon and destroy the GRAF shield: In "Ahandoned" (#10 Nov 20) Marcus sends the ExoSquad on a "top secret" mission to Mars that may spell their doom: In "The Brood" (#11, Nov. 27). Marcus has launched a full-scale attack on Earth, while Marsh end the team discover a huge Neoseolen breeding centar on

Word of Star Trek: The Next Generation's TV demisa is being reconsidered. The newest Trek spin-off may not be ready for a June 1994 premiere, but the ST:TNG cast has all signed e two-year contract. The deal was that they would go on to the ST:TNG feature film rather than do en eighth season, but now Paramount is pressuring them into possibly doing the film on thair hiatus and sticking with just one more season. For more on the film, turn your ayes down this column.

On Thanksgiving day,
Thursday tha 25, four neverbefore-seen piscodes of tha
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
canton will be aired from 4-6
pm. The so-called virgin episodes' (according to praspiscodes' (according to prasmetarials) will be ropeated on
Friday from 10 am to 12 pm.
When the 'non-virgin' episodes
are considerad to have started is
anybody's guess, but at least the
marketing mewans saem to have
a sense of humost.

#### **FEATURE FILMS**

The Star Trek: The Next Generation feature film has been scripted by Ron Moore and Brannon Braga, two of the popular series writers. The script is a time-travel story, finding the TMG cast reunited with the entire cast of Trek "classic." A vetoed time travel script tocused largely on Capitain Kirk. Filming begins early next year, with a \$30 million budget.

Paramount has picked up tha option to produce Captain Thunder and Blue Bolt, based on Roy and Dann Thomes' sporedic Hero comic series. Producer Joa Wizan is connected to the project.

Besides The Mask, another Dark Horse Entertainment creation has just started shooting (literally and figuretively) in

#### TALES FROM THE CRYPT

...The series walks away from HBO and heads for syndication after this season. Upcoming episodes will star Martin Sheen, Brooke Shields, Priscilla Presley and Anthony Michael Hall... British Columbia. A co production with Largo and Sam Ralmi, Time Cop is being directed by Peter Heim (2016, Owtherd), from a script by Merk Verheiden (Allieras comics). In this time-travel love story, swarthy action hero Jean Claude Van Damme plays a man who journeys to the past to have a second chence with his witle end ends up part of a plot to change history! Ron Silver end Mits Sara also star.

James Cameron turned in the first draft script for his big-budget Spider-Man film in early September, but neither Caroloo or Cameron's Lightstorm Entertainment are talking about the story. Production is expected to begin in early 1995.

With their unimaginably stupid TV show soaring in popularity. Beavis and Butt-Head may now be headed for the bia screen. David Geffen is vigorously pursuing the rights to the series, though his deal was put into a spin when a Viacom-Paramount merger became e possibility. Geffen wanted

the film for

Warner, and is not likely to produce it for Paramount if the merger manages to screw up his negotiation deal

More big monster movies are snapping at the big heels of the smash hil Jurassic Park. Tri-Star is moving ahead full-steam on their big budget Godzilla film, while Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall ere readying Michael Crichtor's other monster-opus, Congo.

The latest on Batman 3 is that Joel Schumacher of Flatiliners and Lost Boys feme has definitely signed as the director. The sorfipt is currently being written by husband-and-write team Janet to the upcoming Smoke & Mirrors and Congo.) Word from the inside is that the Ridder is the william (with both Robin Williams and John Malkowich in the runring for the part), and ther Robin will finally be making its longdeliyed appearance! The film begins shooting in September 1994, with a summer 1995 release date! Mearwhile, plans for a Tam Burton-director. Catwoman movie, with saxy star Micholle Pfeiffer, are still whipping loward.

Battlim Productions' Michael Uslan and Ben Meinicker receiving are me an update on their various comic book/film projects. Heliblazer is stalled for the moment, while Black Cat will film later this year with e script by



This picture is from the film Knights, but that sure doesn't look like e suit of armor to me...

Chris Parker and Michael Lucker, A treatment for Otto Binder's Adam Link, Robot is coming soon, and e major director is interested in it. The Lone Ranger tilm is dead at Battilm, but it's been picked up by Lorne Michaels. The biggest news tor the duo is the addition to their roster of The Spirit, a big budget action film based on Will Eisner's enduring comic strip. A major writer and director are in negotiations, both of whom promise to work closely with Eisner to remain true to his Spirit.

Francis Ford Coppola, who's helping produce the upcoming Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, has just announced plans to film a series of movies celled Van

Helsing's Chronicles. In it, the monster hunter (presumably still played by Anthony Hopkins) will combat Satanic forces end evit creatures from Transylvania to Hong Kong to San Francisco.

Alex Proyas is in negotiations with Universal to direct the live-ection Casper the Fnandiy Ghost movie. This some Proyes helmed The Crow, the legally embattled comic book movie in which the lead character is shed and comes back from the dead (do we sense a pattern?). Actor Brandon Lee was killed May 31 during fürning of The Crow's final scenes. Meanwhile, Brandon Lee's mother has filed suit Lee's mother has filed suit against Edward Pressman Film against Edward Pressman Film Corporation, the producers,

director Proves. and others. She asks for \$10,000 in dameges, the maximum that North Carolina lew allows. No criminal charges will be filed in Lee's death. according to Wilmington District Attorney Jerry Spivey, who tound no evidence of the "willful and wanton" negligence required to prosecute Crowvision could tace charges from the State

Occupational Satety and Health Admin-istration,

Pamela Norris (Designing Women) is busy scripting her next tilm, the Beetlejuice sequel, for Geffen. No word on Tim Burton or Michael Keaton's involvement.

Disney's newest animated teature film, *The Lion King*, will be out in April 1994. Previews are on the *Aladdin* videos, including a hint of several of the Etton John songs used in the movie.

Genre films coming up on your celendar: Ghost In The Machne (Fox, November), about a serial killer who cen travel through electrical circults and into machines; Robocop III (Orion, Nov. 5) with Robo-man

# A THE MARCELS HULAWOOD HEROES

Robert Burke; The Three Muskeleers (Disney, Nov. 12); We're Back: A Dinosaur Tale (Universal, Nov. 12), Steven Spielberg's newest animated dino-tilm; and Addams Family Values (Paramount, Nov. 19), welcoming a new mustachioed baby. Pulbert, to the ooky lamily.

#### VIDEO, STAGE, & SOUNOTRACKS

I picked up The Ren & Stimpy Show CD You Eedict! (Sony LK 5740), the other day, and it's a bundle of fun. All your ravorles are here, from "Don't Whiz On The Electric Fence" to Whiz On The Electric Fence to the "Royal Canadian Killed Yaksmen" theme. These ere elinew versions, not recorded from the TV series, and many new songs are notiduded. There's even a lyric book! Oh Happy Happy! Jow Jov!

Two excellent soundtracks were just released and deserve a listen. Needful Things has e haunting soore by Petrick Doyle (Varese Sarabande VSD 5438), while the Supergir soundtrack while the Supergir soundtrack places (Silva SSD 1025). This one features much music not on the original soundtrack, plus many alternate versions of existing tracks. A super-bargaist

in soundtrack news, Edel American will be releasing a Bost Of Stephen King' disc late this year, while GNP is preparing a *Quantum Leap* disc which incorporates several of the show's themes along with some vocals by Scott Balkuia. Soundtrack tans should check out the excellent Film Score Monthly, a newszine dedicated to movie music. Subscriptions are available for \$9 for six months through Lukas Kendall, RFD 488, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568. Tell Ihem I sent you

On October 27th, check out the long-deleyed The Ambulance, a low-budget direct-lo-video horror movie that hes a guest appearance by none other than Stan Leel This has been sitting on the shelf for ebout three years. Coming November 17th, Paramount releases Knighte a

Coming November 17th, Paramount releases Krights, a sci-li video thriller starring Kris Kristofferson and kickboxing champion Kathy Long (who doubled for Michelle Pleiffer as Catwoman) versus Lence Henricksen (Aliens), in a tuture where human blood is the fuel of choice.

Finally, the evil puppets are back in Puppet Master 4, Full Moon's newest horror film in their successful trenchise. This time the nasty creatures have a new leader named Decopitron, end they must battle evil totens who plan to take their file force away! Will the evil puppets win over the more evil totens? Find out on November 170.

Thanks for reading, Next

#### RLOCKRUSTER

The biggest money-makers of '93:

 Jurassic Park
 \$326,074,870

 Aladdin
 \$216,296,247

 The Fugitive
 \$167,300,031

 The Firm
 \$154,665,440

 Sleepless in Seattle
 \$119,489,462

Top Ten movies of October 12\*:

- 1. Malice
- 2. The Good Son
  3. Cool Runnings
- The Program
   Age of Innocence
- 6. For Love or Money
  7. A Bronx Tale
- 8. The Fugitive
  9. Joy Luck Club
  10. Striking Distance
- \$4,314,070 \$4,159,209 \$4,016,220 \$3,695,749 \$3,449,017 \$2,834,797 \$2,625,348

59 232 650

\$7,780,326

\$7,046,648

\*Based on weekend box-office income from October 1st to October 3rd,

month look for more exclusive news and photos, plus the delayed lowdown on *Tekwar* and *Vined* See you next monthly



### RAYZOR REVIEWS... seaOuest DSV

Limit was a tough one for the Pazor to pick. Sure I love Roy Scheider, but a politically correct Roy is just signify out of character as far as yours truly is concerned. Anyway, as you all know by now, seacoust EDV follows the adventures of a Cap'n and his crow as they bodily explore the final frontier, encountering strange file-forms and last owitizations. Instead of trekking arous store occurse, or when a row of the sea. Instead of neturial zones, we have terrificial valents. Instead of aller arose up to no good, we get the Libyans. Instead of photon torpedose, we get. well, furn, topogoose.

All comparisons brushed aside, seeQuest Is at its best when it's wowling the Plazzov with its great effects and flast-pead action sequences. When things seem to locus too long a specific character (file the saking dophin, Darwin), the show slows to a granding halt. Allo, the how has as tendancy to get 'preachy' with conywinded lectures given by the various shipmates thing to turn in the rest of us.

When DSV is but (file the second episode), it's really but. When pure action and futuristic bonds are made, however, the show picks up some steem. I'm not convinced that the show has injected enough creativity into its watery views to disserve all the hype it has been receiving, but then again, Deep Space Nine has blown away every Next Generation episode I've seem this year. I do have hope it.

- RAYZOR



#### **OUARTERMANN'S**

# POWER PLAY

THE GUIDE TO VID GAMES

C

oming at you from Earth, Saturn, and all points in between, the C-Mann is here once egain to dish up a special selection of gerning gossip for your eyes only! No where else will you find info this hot - that's a Quartermann

guarenteel I've pulled out elf stops for this special edition, O-fans, so without further delay let's jump into the best that video gaming has to offer...

... The O has a ban full of new Seture rumors streight from the Land of the Rising Sun. For all the uninitiated. the Saturn is Sega's upcoming stab at the super system. market, with 32-Bit firepower, e CD mech up top, and Sega's long-term software commitment. The big boys at the big 'S' want to take out 3DO and this is their dream. machinel The letest rumblings on the street heve the Saturn decked out with a high-speed disc drive that moves at four times pace of your average machine. This meen mechine is also said to be equipped with seven (you heard right, that's SEVEN) processors. The breins of the console will handle everything from graphics to sounds independently. Also, sources close to yours truly have disclosed that Sega will be packing their fifth generation 32-Bit arcade hardware into the Saturn with the ultimate goal of giving gamers the chance to play their favorite quarter-munchers at home. Finally, the group leader responsible for Sena's upcoming polynon fighting game, called Virtua Fighter, let slip that this new arcade bash-em-up will likely be the pack-in game when the Saturn debuts in the States next year...



Sega's Eternal Champions game is set to put the Genesis on the map with a fighting scenario more detailed than SF2I



The first sketch of Sega's new Saturn system doesn't capture the muscle behind the 32-Bit mega-machine!

..Looks like Sega finally pot wise and plans to follow Nintando's lead with a port of the Neo-Geo classic Art of Fighting onto the Genesis...With the demise of the Lynx and Gameboy on a decline, it looks like the Game Gear may soon be the portable king of the hill. Sege is unleeshing a number of new thiles that expand upon the 16-5th originals (like X-Men, which will feature additional characters on the GG). Also hold on tight for a special GG translation of the upcoming Sega epic, Etemet Chempions...

...Just what is the mega-buck Sega Multi-Media Studio really doing? Sure there are some CD-ROM titles finally hitting the shelves, but they're all coming from sources other than the big 'S'. The O-Mann hears that things are getting tense inside the house of Sonic and that the white shirts of Sega are banking on Jurassic Park CD to seve their skins... Acclaim is committing to 3DO in a major league way, with several titles in the pipe. The O Rumor Mill sez that the first release will be NBA Jam. hitting the court the first quarter of 1994...SNK is looking to be the big boy on the fighting game block and they're outting their money where their cart slot is! The newest fighting game for the Neo-Geo is rumored to be a 200 Meg monster cart called The Survivor and feature characters from both World Heroes and Fatal Fury. Although the bash-em-up scene is getting crowded, the Q-Minetor cen't weit...

...With the Sega CD approaching the magic million mark, more companies are starting to give the CD-ROM platform a closer look. Data East has thrown their support behind the disc mechine, with an enhance version of their popular Side Pocket pool simulation. Look for mouse compatibility on this pup... The last holdouts weiting to bring out hit games for Nintendo and Sega simultaneously will dwindle by one shortly. Hudson Soft has gotten the nod from Sega of America behind closed doors and may start producing their super softs just in time for the holidays. Other big guns like Interplay and the leading Brit firm, the Sales Curve, will also sign on to Sega before the end of the year. In fact, the Q-Mann got an advance screening of an absolutely incredible version of The Lawnmower Man on Sega CD that will blow your minds!...

... Now that Sunsoft has captured virtually every Loony Tunes character you can think of, the Q-Mann has it from the inside that a whole slew of comical games are on the way. In addition to their current crop of hits, Siller and Co. plan to produce carts based on Sylvester and Tweety, Porky Pig, and Speedy Gonzalesi Also keep your eyes peeled for a Scooby Doo game tor next yeer...Hold onto your wallets! It you though the 3DO put a dent in your bank account. wait until you see what Pioneer has in store for the die hard



The Lawnmower Man gets a face-lift courtesy of the extra power of CD!



Pioneer's LaserActive system combines laserdisc & CD-RDM!

gamer. The base LaserActive system will list at over \$900 and the Sega CD and Duo CD add-on modules will lite the peckage another \$600 bucks! With games that are retailing for 120 clams, the LaserActive is threatening to take the dalaim of "Most Expensive Geme System" away from SNK without a second look...

...That's it for this inside trek around the garning industry! Look for the Q-Mann's special Super Street Fighter contest in this issue and don't torget to enter - this super sequel could be yours for just the cost of a postcard.

ELECTRONIC GAMING MONTHS

Tune into the hottest new gaming info in November with more than 400 incredible pages of previews, reviews, and strategies you can only find in ELECTRONIC RAMINE MONTHLY!





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No purchase



Captain America and the Avengers, the hit arcade game and best-selling Marvel Comic, is now available for your pure NES<sup>3</sup>. Just like the arcade game, you can choose from any of the four Avengers, each with his own special powers. Your goal is to defeat the diabolical genius Red Skull and his super-evil mind control device. Game features include:

Normal or extremely radical "Arcade Mode"

Six levels of play and sounds just like the arcade game.

Amazing power-ups and action

Single or two player option with simultaneous cooperative play on the two-player setting.

For the store nearest you or to buy, call 1-800-234-3088

Captain America and the Avengers plays just like the arcade game and sounds just like the arcade game.

What are you waiting for? Get this game! It's up to you and your Avenger to save the world, and maybe even the solar system.







#### HE'S VILE, VICIOUS AND VULGAR...AND HERO CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HIM!

What on Eerth, Heaven or Hell could possibly get Spawn to team up with his arch-nemesis, the Violator? This question is answered when the devil sends tha Phlebiac Brothers to Earth to taach the Violator a lesson. They're brothers to the Violator as well, and there isn't anything that

will stend between them and that sweet taste of ravange. The one problem with demons from hall, however, is that they don't really care who gets crushad when the battleslines spill out into the real world. In tact. thay kind of like

Popular writer of 1963, Swamp Thing and From Hall, Alan Moore returns to put

Todd McFarlene's characters through some new paces. This time, Todd has issued only one goe) that he insists Alan must follow: At the conclusion of this series the Violator must be "tha biggest and the baddest, the nastiest end the fattest." McFarlane wants the Violator to be the villain that everyone will pey to see again and again. To achiave this, Moore will be

reaching from the various demons ot hell that he introduced in Spawn #8. From the eighth sphere of hell will come The Vindicator and its siblings. The Vindicator takas care

ot those nueral-parasites. K3-Myrlu, which are the stuff Spawn's "suit" is mede ot. Can Spawn hope to take down evil baings who wield the power of his suit? Coupled with the trouble Spawn encountered when he came tece to tace with the Violator during their tirst meetings and this sizzling hot three issue mini could represent his longest and toughest fight evar.

Aiding Moore in his task is artist Bart Sears, drawing In a style that is ramarkably close to McFerlane's, but

still retaining the elements of his own style that are featured in the exclusive pancils balow

The battle will begin in lata spring or early summer when Spawn sans Todd explodes into comic stores everywhere! One of the faw quaranteed smash hits of 1994!

#### WHAT MAKES THE UIOLATOR TICK?

He's a craepy little clownlike killar just waiting for the naxt dona to giva him some grief. Hidden behind the

hideous facade is an even more hideous demon with an inspired shell who

just loves to

chomp on tasty human heart-burgars

Whan you're one of the Phlebiac Brothers of the eighth circle of hell (funny, I though there were only seven), you can do pretty much whatevar you want...sorta. Somewhere along the line, the Violator strayed from his duties and old Scratch

noticed that Spawn end this little shrimo were trashing

Imagavilla. Ha shut the little runt down and

now Violator is stuck in e clown moda - at least until naxt summer. As Spewn will soon discover, you





Thanks to our inside sources. **HERO** presents these awesome **Bart Sears pencils** from the upcoming series.





audience.

#### NUMBER 1 **SPAWN**

Market Score: 17.8

Well, it looks like Todd's pact with Violator has paid off big once again! Just kidding, Todd, but it does seem oddly appropriate that the biggest book of the Halloween season features a dead guy coming back to life-boy, talk about your conversation Ice-breaker! This book continues to outsell not only Sleepwalker, but back issues of Captain Atom and Star Brand! One suggestion, Todd-make him grimmer I



Prime

Turn the Billy Batson concept on its head and you've got Malibu's biggest Ultraverse title

WildCATS

Hey, cats and kittens! You seem to đig each flippin' ish of Mr. Lee's swinging book! Yeah!

Market Score: 14.7

Market Score: 4.7

Market Score: 5,2



Batman

The Batcave's recent personnel change has left fans ondering the



Sandman

Gaiman and Co. make the mainstream's most consistently intelligent comics. Period.

Market Score: 4.3



X-Mea Ever wonder why

you never see Wolverine pick his nose? It's those clawsi Yee-ow



Y-B Manowar

Valiant continues to ride strong with the hero who took his name from a Tic-Tac-Toe game.

Market Score: 3.9 Market Score: 3,4



Amazing Spiderman Spidey continues to dodge high-powered fists and retain his high-powered

Detective Denny O'Neil and

company keep the Dark Knight's world spinning at a wild pace.

Market Score: 2.1

Market Score: 3.8

is determined by the number of votes each book receive les cast by phone and mall. Total-points will be tabulated a

# **VOTE!**











MINI



#### TELL US WHO YOUR FAVORITES ARE AND YOU COULD FIND YOURSELF WITH A COMPLETE SET OF HERO PLATINUM EDITION COMICS!

The eyes of the industry are turning to YOU to plck the best comics, artists, and writers to be featured in the pages of HEROI We want you to select the hortest titles and greatest talents which will be used to create the monthly HERO Reader Top Nine awards! Your opinion counts, and by voting with HERO you can have your voice heard by more than 250,000 comic enthusiasts from Baltimore to Beirut!

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Send your votes tor best Artist, Writer, and Comic (in that order) on a postcard to:

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Remember, all entries must be received before the 15th of November to be eligible for the next drawing, so ACT NOW!











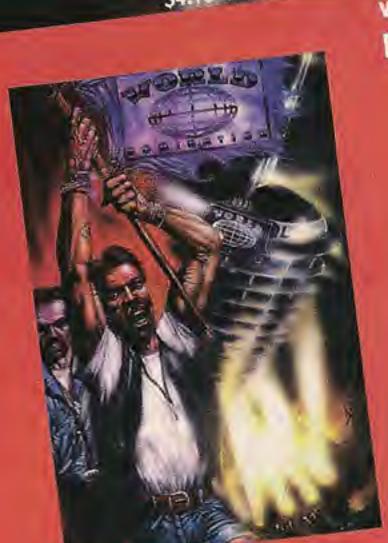
ROCK-IT COMIX—the first and only fully-authorized series of comic magazines dedicated to the world of rock 'n' roll! Attracting bands from all genres of the industry—rock, pop, metal, alternative, rap, and country—ROCK-IT COMIX will become the most exciting entertainment medium since music videos! Each issue is created with direct participation from the musical acts as the artist or band help create their own comic-book image!

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The launch begins with METALLICA and WORLD DOMINATION! Then get ready for more with LITA FORD, PANTERA, MEGADETH, THE PHARCYDE, OZZY OSBOURNE, BLACK SABBATH, SANTANA, YES, and many more!

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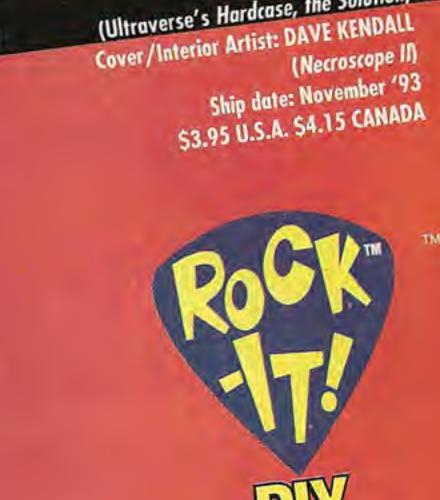






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**▲**METALLICA

Writer: JAMES HUDNALL

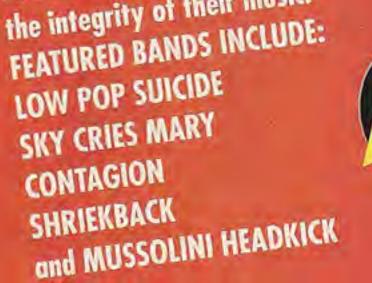
(Ultraverse's Hardcase, the Solution)



# METALLICA #1 of 3

Lars Ulrich, influenced by the metal sound coming from Europe, joins with James Hetfield to record one song for a compilation album entitled Metal Massacre. The song was ill-received by critics, but little did anyone know it was the birth of the biggest heavy metal act in music—METALLICA! Read the official sory of Lars, James, Kirk, Cliff, and Jason—the way only METALLICA could tell it! With a live album coming next year, you can't afford to miss it!

**WORLD DOMINATION #1** A unique collection of bands come together to form the controversial independent alternative music label, WORLD DOMINATION. Greedy music executives want control, but WORLD DOMINATION'S founders, Dave Allen and Luc Van Acker have no intention of becoming corporate puppets! The bands of WORLD DOMINATION resort to musical terrorism to keep Capitol records and the rest of the music industry from destroying the integrity of their music. FEATURED BANDS INCLUDE: LOW POP SUICIDE







STEALTH SQUAD TM and @ Philip C. Lane 1993

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

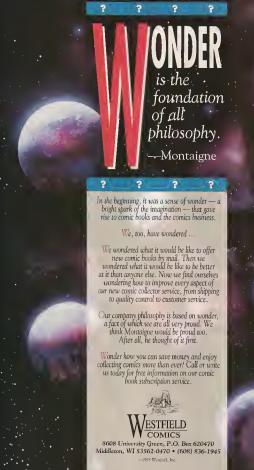
ISSUE #2
COMING AT YOU,
IN FULL COLOR,
IN JANUARY

I I I

PART OF A
NEW LIMITED
SERIES FROM



Stealth Squad #1 is still available for reorder.



CIRCLE #150 ON READERS SERVICE CARD.



Talk about an easy list! Fasily the hest comic we've seen in years. MARVELS tons our list as the hot comic this month This may not be the comic that appreciates into a \$400 00 book two weeks after it comes out but it will be one for the ages Right up there with DARK KNIGHT and WATCHMEN, Do yourself a favor and give it a read. Do va get what I'm saving? Is this thing on?



#### SOLITRIRE #1

The Ultraverse expands with a bang. Solitaire is noe kick-butt buy, and his debut book comes with one of four special playing cards! Not trading cards, playing cards! This is different than the average Ultraverse fare, and with pre-orders going down during the off-season, look for this to be a long-ferm winner.









#### NINJAK #1

You've seen him in Bloodshot. You've seen him in Secret Wespors. Now this way-cool ninja gets his own book with super artist Joe Quesada doing the pencils. If you're looking for a sleeper, this isn't it. If you're looking for a good read, this book has found a home.

#### G000 GUYS #1

Did you ever want to be a superhero? Seven lucky people get the chance in Defiant's new comic that will use the likenesses of seven real people as the heroes. Makes you wonder if they'll kill of one of these guys and have him come back as four different superheroes?











#### SIN CITY: A ORME TO KILL FOR #1

Welcome to Sin City, the place where anything could happen, and most often does. Just when you thought the city was safe, Frank Miller takes you on a return trip! This book has won some major awards, and now's the time to find out why!

#### ITCHY & SCRATCHY #1/ SIMPSONS #1

Bongo Comics is now adapting several Simpsons' ite-ins, and they are great! Like humor books? Like the Simpsons? Then this is definitely the line for you. Headed by Groening himself, this line is hot!





....

#### TADLL #1

Another big hlt from Imaga! He's 3'4", 2,000 years old and ready for a rumble. What secrets does he keep? Does he like his troll babes taller or shorter than him? Do they come any shorter than him? Doas ha live under a bridge? Will the main villain be called "Billy Goat Gruft?" And, tha burning auestion, is he related to those godawful Turtle Trolls??? Find out in this debut issue written by Rob "Mr. 501" Liefeld himself, And hey, if Rob writes it, can guest stars like Supreme and Youngblood be far behind? Be sure and check out the art by this Matsuda guy. He's got a dynamic style that's sure to make this title burn!

# \*4



#### DEATH GALLERY #1

Death, that mega-popular dead babe from Sandman, gets her own pin-up book tilled with interpretations of her from today's top artists, including Brian (Judge Dredd) Bolland, Marc (Gregory) Hempel, Jeff (Bone) Smith, Michael Kaluta, Dave McKean, P. Craig Russell, Joe Phillips, Charles Vess, Jill Thompson and more. There's even a wraparound cover with a metallic fifth Ink by Dave McKean and a two-page painted center-spread by Chris Bachalo! This is really strange. though, Think about it. The best wriften comic of our day and this is an art book? Sort of oxymoronic, like Army Intelligence, Still, this is great art.



#### MARVELS #1

WRITER: ARTIST: Kurt Busiek Alex Ross





#### PUNISHER: SUICIDE RUN

The gritty, down-and-dirty Punishar is back, He's in a 10part crossover that will change Frank Castle permanently (in comic book terms, that means at least 12 issues). Both the cops and the mob are after him. and the heat is on. This will be bigger than his tights with Spider-Man! This will be bigger than the time he was a black guy tor three issues! This will be bloger than when he ran out of ammo and had to use a squirt gun! This story takes place in Punisher #86-88. Punisher War Journal #61-64. and Punisher War Zone #23-25. with covers by Michael Golden. Don't miss out on a single chapter of this explosive tale!







#### BATMAN/DREDD: VENDETTA IN GDTHAM #1

You asked tor it, so DC is giving it to you! You said you wanted another team-up between the Batster and Dredd-head, Well. here it Is! What'ra you waiting for. Nab this baby or you'll never forgive yourself. Written by Alan Grant (yeah, the same guy who got 'em together softened. It's Elettmen va. shidos Dredd when Dredd comes to Gotham to settle the score with ol' pointy ears. As if that weren't enough, the excitement also has the Ventriloquist, that double-talking dummy who starts a series of mass murders. What's a Bat-guy to do with both of 'em running around creating trouble? Ov!

Marvels is a fully painted bookshelf series with an acetate outer cover, so you can pull it back and enjoy all the art. It tells the story of the early days of all your favorite Marvel heroes, like the X-Men. Spidey, and the FF through the eyes of a photographer. The series starts with the famous Human Torch/Sub-Mariner battle, covers the wedding of Reed and Sue Richards, and ends with the death of Gwen Stacy, This 4issue mini-seriea is, without a doubt, the most eagerly anticipated project to come out in years. Everybody is buzzing about this book. Beautiful just barely describes the art by Alex Ross. The realistic paintings by Ross are a wonder to behold, and some of the most famous scenes in Marvel history are re-represented with an all new slant. If you buy one book this year, it had better be this. Trust us on this one. Every collection should have one. 'Nuff said.

## win a full-size











#### OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Please enter my name in the HERO Illustrated Super Street Fighter give-awayl i understand that winners will be drawn at random from all entries received by December 15, 1993.

Name Address

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# TRADING CARDS

Bu Rob Hölly



packs like Upper Deck did with Comic Ball 52 That way the collectors wouldn't have single cards left over Third card force like to collect cards that are single pictures, suitehle to display or look at in any order, and these cards just don't fit that hill. Maybe have something on the backs of the cards that are sinale shots and have the fronts he like the puzzle pieces on the back of Wacky Packages That trick would seem to appease both the comic collectors who want the story, and the card collectors who want single imenes

And then there are... Pogs! Those tons to some Hawaiian fruit drink have festered ideas in card companies, and there are ectually poos of Savage Dregon, Superman and everyone's favorite. Spawn (kids just love Spawn). What kind of cruel loke is this? Trading cerds ere traditionally square, and there's a very good reason for that. Will we be seeing those silly little fill-in-the-hole books like the coin collectors use? They're just wrong, and that's all there is to say about that. Looks like the phantom fad has passed before it becan. as Pogs seem to be doing the deep six elready. Just to be fair though, if you like Pogs, Gops, Gout or whatever they cell them, write us and tell us why. We really want to know. A





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sents a low price and the

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Tip: Visit your card shops regularly. These shops carry a wide variety of cards, some of which cannot be found in grocery stores, etc.

All the prices listed are for cards in near mint to mint condition and are compiled from retaliers around the nation. This month's focus is on sit-com cards. Enjoy!

ADDAMS FAMILY Donruss - '64 66 Card Set Commons

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Topps - '88 66 Card Set Commons Stickers (11)

If the Sweathogs would've looked like the Saved By The Bell babes, they'd still be around today.

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## FOCUS ON

# THE LEGION OF 1月11月11月

he greatest appeal the future holds for all of us is the hope that no matter how things are now, they will eventually get better, even if you're talking about the world where someone like

Superboy lives.

That was the idea behind brought Superboy face-to-face with three teenagers from the future Cosmic Boy, Lightning Lad and Saturn Girl—the nucleus for one of the most famous hero teams of ail—
The Legion of Super-Heroes When
Otto Binder and Al Plastino began

the Lagion of Super-Heroes. When out of Dotto Binder and A Plastino began century-awapping, the 30th century obtained in the Super-Bernstein of the Super-Bernstein of Super-Bernstein Super-Bernstein Super-Bernstein Super-Bernstein Super-Bern into it-and that's not including the Legion of Super-Pets, who made their "dramatic" debut in Adventure

#293). By this time, Superman creator Jerry Siegel was writing some of the stories, while John Forte took over the regular penciling chores and with Mort Weisinger at the helm as editor, each story was full of wild coincidences and delightfully gooly expository dialogue ("I'm Matter-Eater Lad; a new member!"):

Unlike Weisinger's other titles, however, the Legion stories had a that was a rare occurrence for its time, and if today's writers and artists seem to dwell on this era more than other times in Legion his-

inore than other times in Legion here, it is possible because those stories, for ell their dopper moments, were incredibly cool.

If the technology of heroes was much greater in the 30th century, so too was the technology of villainand the villains code between sold to legion and the villains code between the control to the control of the control of

Superboy, Ultra Boy and Mon-El, In Adventure # 349, the Legion encountered the would-be dictator Universo for the first time, as he stole e Leglon firme-bubble and laid traps throughout history for the members who tried to follow him. The Legion's edventures reminded us that while the benefits of the future jooked greater, the risks were greater as well. It's probably no coincidence that some of the Legion's most famous moments involve the death of a member. Back Incive the death of a member. Back often a here's death was done as e despirate effection-getting device (before it was even done period), Lightning Lidd sacrificed this life to save his true love Saturn Garl (end the Earth) from the would be conqueror Zaiyan. The fain outbry was tentienciaus, and while new members were brought in (including Mon-Bit a cover-powered tenting the control of the c





Other writers made their presence elt on the title during this period.

Other wheth medical phase period. Men the distribution that period control and the control of the veteran white youthful couberance were indice control to the veteran white indice control to the veteran white indice control of the veteran white indice control of the veterance by an indice control of the veterance of the control of the control of the veterance when the control of the veterance was indicated by a creature who threeled to destroy the sun, if the veterance was indicated by a creature who threeled to destroy the sun, if the veterance was indicated by a creature who threeled to destroy the sun, if the veterance was indicated by the sun, if the control of the veterance of the ve

round a new nome once agein, going from Adventure to sharing Superboy's book (and eventuelly taking it over). Artists included Dave Cockrum and Mike Grell.

Legion membership continued to grow steedily, end in order to reflect the enlightenment of the 197 racial barriers were broken down in the 30th century when the Legion inducted its first two minority members, Tyroc and Invisible Kid

What stuck out for most people during this era, however, were the Legion's new costumes. Every wretched excess of 70s fesh somehow reared its ugly head in the 30th century. That coupled with the new pege count of comics (by the mid-70s, ads had taken all but 17 pages of your average comic) mede memorable stories e real rarity.

The Legion's next real call to glory came in the eerly 1980s, when writer Paul Levitz end ertist Keith



camen Introduced the future's greatest seam to the universe's greatest villarin—Jack Kirby's Darkseid—in "The Great Dorkness Saga." When the Crisis on Infinite Earths shook the DO Universe, some sweeping chenges had to be made. One was John Byrne's decision to menate Sumemer's seat se negete Supermen's past as

One was John syntre a bedesten to Gregoria Superiment's paul as easy) had ramillications on the Legon, since he vasit the reason they formed in the first place. Byrne and Levitz went out of their way to clear up the problem in Legion of Super-thered 37 and 39 (a crossover with Byrne's Superman books), delaming that the Superiman books), delaming that the Superiman books), delaming that the Superiman books, delaming the Legonic thin is Spockett universe if the Legonic than the spocket universe if the superiman benefit of superiman that the superiman books of the superiman

Vril Dox, can now be found in the current day, pelling around with Lobo in L.E.G.I.O.N. 93.

When Levitz wrapped up the Legion of Super-Heroes series in 1989. Keith Giffen and writers Tom and Mary Bierbeum came in with a new direction. The new Legion book started five yeers after the last one ended, in a world decimated by a and ultimately ruled by Mordru the Mystic, Eventually the Legion reformed around the call of Chameleon Boy, who pledged to offer his resources to bring the team together. This new series fried to tie up continuity as well Supergirl, for



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#### TOP 10 LEGION REJECTS

Hey if you were a 30th century teenager wouldn't you want to be part of the Legion of Super-Heroes? Keep in mind, however, you're dealing with teenagers-a notoriously cliquish are group. These tolks discovered be nowers that made you famous back home may not mean a thing when you get to the big city



THE MECC Had "tho amazing power to attract dirt!" Hey find me a teenager who docen't



(ESTER SPIFFANY Tried to huy his way into the Legion

Buddy, can you enare your nade?





DOUBLE HEADER Brought new meaning to the phrase





ANTENNAE & human radio antennae, Rejected when he nicked un Rush Limbaugh 5

THE TUSKER

'Great stars!



fierce stench. His influence is still seen among many modern comics fone





His fangs are extending to fantastic length!" Flossing was sheer torture RONN KAR Had "the

power of flatten.

ing!" If it looks like a

doormat, and acts

like a doormat...



ARM-FALL-OFF BOY They took Jimmy Olsen and turned down this guy? What the helf? 12





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CARD, c/o HERO ILLUSTRATED, 1920 Highland, Suite 222, Lombard, IL 60148 by November 30, 1993. A scratch ott card

will be sent to you. Each card must be requested separately.

4. The prizes are 1) 1 Justice League of America #1. Retail value approximately \$1,000. 2) One of 10 Gold or Platinum Edition Valiant Comics. Retail value approximately \$60.00. 3) One of 20 DC Archive Edition Hardcover books. Retail value approximately \$40.00. 4) One of 100 Platinum toil HERO PREMIERE EDITIONS Retail value approximately \$20.

5. Sweepstakes is open to all residents of the United States and Canada except employees of the Sendai Media Group. Warrior Publications, HERO ILLUSTRATED, and their attiliates and immediate tamilies. Send winning card to HERO GOLD

CONTEST 2- 1920 Highland Avenue, Suite 222, Lombard, IL 60148.

6. Odds of winning are as follows: Showcase #4 - 1 in 200,000; Platinum Valiant - 1 in 20,000; DC Archive - 1 in 10,000;

HERO PREMIERE EDITIONS - 1 in 2,000.

7. Otter is void where prohibited and subject to all tederal, state and local laws. Taxes on prizes are the responsibility of the prize winners. No prize substitution. No cash alternative. The prize selection decision of the judges is tinal.

8. For a list of major prizes winners, available after January 31, 1994, send a self addressed, stamped envelope to: HERO GOLD CONTEST WINNERS - August, 1920 Highland Avenue, Suite 222, Lombard, IL 60148.

9. All uncollected prizes will be placed in a second-chance drawing with winners randomly selected trom all entries received. Enter by sending a postcard with your name, address and phone number to: HERO Second Chance Drawing -December, 1920 Highland Avenue, Suite 222, Lombard, IL 60148



GOLD CARD GOLD CARD GOLD CARD

# WIN JUSTICE LEAGUE #1 AND OTHER PRIZES ONLY FROM





ILLUSTRATED

Scratch off below, if all 3 match you are a winner!







Turn to page 122 for full details and a list of prizes!

See contest rules and regulations on back of card.

D CARL

GOLD CARD

GOLD CARD

GOLD CARD

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You may have already won an awesome original copy of Justice League of America #1! Or, maybe one of the dozens of other prizes from HERO!

# PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

Yes, this is the tillh incredible HERO scratch off contest! Our polls indicate that almost 98% of all readers prefer this contest to major oral surgery. So grab a coin, scratch off those lillle gold squares, and see if you have won! A beautily copy of Justice League of America #1 is just waiting for the guy who comes up with Ihree JLAs just like Ihal card to the right. And don't despair. It you don't win the big one, there are slill some other nifty prizes ripe for the picking. Platinum Valiants, DC Archives and some really hot platinum Premiere Edition comics! That's right - some highly collectible books are waiting for a good home with a friendly family to take care of them. So gel scratching and be sure to read the legal stuff below.



# OUR READERS ASKED US TO BRING 'EM THE BEST...



HERO, #8 FEATURES AN EXCLUSIVE EXTREME STUDIOS JAM COMIC, A BEAUTIFUL PRIME COVER, A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME VALIANT SCRATCH-OFF CONTEST, AND ALL OF THE GREAT FEATURES THAT MAKE HERO THE #1 COMIC MAGAZINE! BUY HERO AND DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE!



ON SALE December 20 HOW

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# 

The HERO PRICE GUIDE you now hold in your hands is one of the most interactive, accurate, and up-to-date listings of its kind. Thousands of hours were spent gathering and compiling the data contained within the following 40 pages to deliver a price guide that addresses the needs and concerns

of both casual and avid collectors alike

The HERO PRICE GUIDE has been designed to offer you the most honest appraisals of your collections from dozens of actual comic book retailers

around the country HERO has carefully selected some of the best sources for back-issue information as weil as regular comic book stores. like the ones you visit, to create a listing that is not only representative of current market values and trends.

but also supplies a price frame within which the

value of your comics can be judged.

The methods used by some price guide publications that supply a single valuation for titles based on a limited or infrequent politing of current market reaction are simply not accurate. The HERO PRICE GUIDE presents values in a bracketed format that

compensates for many of the regional and timesensitive variables that take place. Title: The name While any prica quide will be of the comic.

plaqued with problems, only HERO employs a special system and interactive format to attack

these problems head-on. All prices are representative of

comics in "Near-Mint" condition. This price guide, and any price guide contained within Hero Illustrated, are fairly-based listings

created to give the reader an idea of what specific comics or related materials could be purchased for at the time this issue went to press. Hero Illustrated does not operate comic retail stores and does not sell, or purchase for resale, any comic or comic-related material, and this is not a catalog listing of prices we will buy or sell comics for. The Low and High prices do NOT represent "buy" and "sell" values. They are the low and high range of retail prices that reflect what anyone could expect to pay for that Issue in a comic store. Some stores may charge more or less than the prices listed.

If you have information that the prices contained within this price guide are not in line with what you have seen or purchased a comic for please let us

If you wish to be included as a contributor to the price guide please contact Price Guide Editor Brian Wenhern at Hero Illustrated Drice Guide 1920 Highland Avenue Suite 222 Lombard II 60148

KEY Title -Company issue # Low Retail High Retail

SAVAGE DRAGON Image 6.00 10.00 6.00 4 00 1 50

# MARVEL FANFARE #15

Dublisher-Manual Issue No.: #15 Writer Various Artist-Various lakar. Various Cover Price: \$1.50 Current Low Price: \$2.00 Current High Price: \$3.00

Overview: Issue is led off by Barry Windsor-Smith story involving practical jokes between me Thing and Torch.



HERO RATING: \*\*\*

HI PICK

Barry Windsor-Smith has picked up popularity with today's readars with Archer & Armstrong, but older works are still unknown. Fanfare lost some steam affer its start, but this is one to look for, due to good art and an amusing story

#### DEALER PICK

"So It's got Barry Windsor-Smith, So what? This book sells at cover prica, but can also be found in many bargain bins...Great Barry Smith art as usual and a very good and amusing story... A barely recognizable Smith story that is fun! Grab your copy now, before word gets out,"

Dealer Pick : What are store owners saying?

Fact-File Info: Who was the

publisher, the

art and writing

price and cur-

Background on

team, cover

rent value

Overview:

story line.

"Potential"

I'm burnin.

**HERO Pick:** 

Staff think?

What does the

**HERO Research** 

Rating: Is this

good or what? \* = Why?

\*\*\*\* = Yow!

HERO

# HOW TO ENTER THE HFRO COMIC CONTESTS:

Throughout the HERO price contests that give you the opportunity to win some super prizes and classic comics from

every Age!
Aimost every page in this price guide fiss 6 contest to win way cool prizes. The trick is to send in your non-winning Gold Card to us and we will enter you into all of the contests with-out a hitch! That's right! You do a whole lot of nothing and we'll sorts of nifty items! Each of the contests will have a few very difficult questions as well, that you can answer for a chance at Premiere Editional The person that gets all the answers right for a single issue, and we name in lights in the net of HERO as Trivia King

xtraordinairel As is the cess with sny test entries (along with you name, address and phone

# HERO CONTESTS 1920 Highlend Avenue Suite 250 Lombard, IL 60148 nember that these contests

that HERO and its staff or their immediate families are not eli-gible. Also, HERO is not events which may prevent your entry from getting to us on time. Only one prize wirner per contest unless otherwise noted You can enter as many times as you have a non-winning Gold Card, or you can enter the contests individually by sending the correct answers on a post-card. We'll even send out the comics in brand-spanking new Showcase Setlers so you can proudly displey your winnings.

PUBLISHER		
NUMBER	LQW	HI
1963		
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1 Myslery Inc. 1 Gold ed.	1.50	2.50
2 The Fury	1.50	2.50
3	1.50	2.00
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264-266	42.00	75 00
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ADVENTURE COMICS

DC Comics

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Annual 3

Annual 4

276,280

262 LSH

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#### ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

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426-449	1 50	1.75
450-462	1.50	2 50
463	2 00	4.00
464 Lobo app.	1.50	2.00
465	1 50	1 50
468	1.50	2 00
467 .	1.50	2.00
468-471	1 50	1.50
472-473	1.50	2 00
474-479	1-50	1.50
480	1 50	2 00
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500 Newsstand	3.00	6.00
500 Platinum ed.	75.00	150 00
501-504	1.50	2.50
505	1.50	1.50
505 Direct	2 50	2.50
Annual 1	2.00	3 00
Annual 2	2.50	4.00
Annual 3	2 50	3 00
Annual 4	3 00	3 00
Annual 5	2.50	2 50

#### ADVENTURES OF THE FLY

Archie				
1	300.00	450.00		
Simon and	Kirby			
2	170.00	250.00		
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3	100.00	150 00		
4	70 00	100 00		
5-10	50.00	60 00		
11-13	25.00	40.00		
14	45.00	60.00		
15-20	25.00	35.00		
21-30	22.00	30 00		
31	25.00	35.00		

#### ADVENTURES OF THE JACUAR

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Epic/Mervel				
1	12.00	15 00		
1 2nd print	3.50	5.00		
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# **ALIEN LEGION**

1st Series		
1-20	1.50	2,00
2nd Series		
1-18	1.25	1.50
Jugger Grimrod	6.00	6.00



#### ALIEN LEGION BINARY DEEP Epic/Marvel 3.50 3.50

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#### **ALIEN LEGION** ON THE EOGE

1-3	4.50 4	50
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Dark Horse				
1	25.00	33 00		
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1 2nd print	3.00	8.00		
1 3-6 print	2.00	3.00		
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2 2nd print	3.00	5.00		
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Mini comic 1	7.50	10.00		
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2-4	4.75	6.00		

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#### ALPHA FLIGHT Marvel

1	4.00	4.50	
John Byrne art			
2-11	2.00	3.00	
12	2 00	3.50	
13 Wolverine	4 00	12.00	
14-16	1.50	2.00	
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87-90 Wolverine			

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#### AMAZING ADULT FANTASY Maryel

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#### SMS21NG **ADVENTURES**

Marvel			
1 Kirby	14.00	20.00	
2-4	6.00	10.00	
5-8 Neal Adams	8.00	10.00	
9-10	5.00	6.00	
11 Beast solo	12.00	15.00	
12-17 Beast	8.00	12.00	
18	11.00	14.00	
19-39	3.50	4 00	

### **AMAZING FANTASY**

6700.00/8000.00 1st App. Spider-Man

#### SMS7ING SPICER-MAN Mervel

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# **ALPHA FLIGHT** #106

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1 25 1.25

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Marvel
#106
Scott Lobdell
Mark Pacella
Dan Panosian
\$1.75
Price: \$7.00
Price: \$15.00

Overview: Northstar fights for the life of a baby that has AIDS. and then declares he's homosexual



1sl App. Sandman

# HERO RATING:

### H.I. PICK

Northstar is gay, So what? No super beings die, no one changes costume, no nuthin'.

# DEALER PICK

"Have multiples of all issues in stock, only one copy of this Issue. Subject matter makes story interesting and worth reading...Npt a good investment. This would have sold as well as the rest of the failed series if not for the hype. Poor treatment of a homosexual character...Now a year later who cares?"

# READER WHAT IFC

What if Plactic Man was 90s— would be be called Bubber Man? D.A. Stueck, Granite City.

No he'd probably he called Protection Man.

What if Evil Emie lived with Evil Burt on Sesame. Matt Harris, Great Neck, NY

The Count would keep busy

What if there was a Milk & Cheese 2099? reddy Bouchardy heir jokes would be really

What if Superman died...for

Kelly David Spellman Davis, CA He did die for good. He brought hundreds of thou-sands of non-comic readen into the comic shops and got them excited about our

What if Predator fell in love th an Alien? mir an Alleri? Rifz Sabangan, College, Łaguna, Philippenes I guess you'd get an Alledator.

What if Pee Wee Herman had to repossess Lobo's hike? Stephen D. Kennamer

Brownshore, AL It wouldn't do his career any harm, that's for sure

What if Hero & Wizard didn't cover Image for one month, would the comic universe end as we know it?

	App 650 00 850.00
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1st App. L	zard
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252	16.00	22.00
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253	7.00	9.00
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254	6.00	7.00
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258	8.00	8.00
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257	8.00	10 00
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# **AOUAMAN** #1

Publisher: DC Issue No.: #1 Writer: Neal Pozner Artist: Craig Hamilton lnker: Steve Montano Cover Price: 5.75 Current Low Price: \$3.50 Current High Price: \$3.50

Overview: Aquaman gets a new costume and a new attitude, as Atlantis prepares for war with the surface



8-13

Special 1

Mini-serice; 1966

**HERO RATING:** 

### H.I. PICK

The new costume that didn't last is the only redeeming queity of this series. A little potential exists if fans respond to the new Peter David series, but oider stories are better, with sharper art and interesting stories

### DEALER PICK

Nice intro to limited series. But interest in Aguaman has never seemed to last. Coluid gein in demand for e short time because of Peter David's Time & Tide coming out...Great Hamilton art and decent story, Might pick up a bet when Peter David's limited series comes out...'

# HERO CONTEST



# WIN **AVENGERS** #263

The questions for this contest will go from very easy to rather difficult, so keep

1. Who are the founding members of the Avencers?

2. Who are the heroes that replaced the original core

3, Who is the Avengers' butter/housekeeper?

5. Which heroes did Rick Jones hang around with?

6. Name everyone who was an Avenger at one time. (Wink Martindale is NOT a correct answer.)

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# **AVENGERS** #263

Publisher. Marvel Issue No.: #263 Writer: **Boger Stem** Artist: John Busceme lnker: Tom Palmer Cover Price: 8.65 Current Low Price: \$6.00 Current High Price: \$10.00

Overview: X-Factor started in this issue when the Avengers find B cocooned Jean Grey in Jamaica Bay.



**HERO RATING:** \*\*

#### H.I. PICK

This has to be the lamest and most unbelievable return-to-life story of any character ever in the history of comics. Lotsa hype for little resuits left fens cold. Nothing happens. Only good for Avengers completists.

# DEALER PICK

"As an Avengers story, below average, as a harbinger of things to come (X-Factor), barely above average...Hang onto this because of the 1st appearance of X-Factor, better than most of the X-Factor trash today... Tie in to rebirth of Jean Grey, a good cop out on Marvel's sake to resurrect a "dead" hero."



# HERO CONTEST #170



# RONF #1

We can't say enough about Jeff Smith's wonderful creation. Bone. This title is the cat's meany the hee's knees, the creem in our coffee, the nut in our Almond Joy, the ... well, you get the idea. For those of you who are desperate to win a first nrinting of this treasure, you have two choices (that'e right, there can be two winners for this title). One, cre ate a Bone action figure, either of Bone or one of his cousins, and send us a pic ture of it, or two, answer the following questions and send us a letter, your Goldcard and with the correct answers

What are the names of

2. In what town are the Bone sousins reunited

3. Who is the girl who gives Bone a place to stay?

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# BONE #1

Publisher: Cartoon Books Issue No.: Writer: Jeff Smith Artist: Jeff Smith Inker: Jeff Smith Cover Price: \$2.95 Current Low Price: \$25,00 Current High Price:

Overview: Character called Bone and his two cousins are thrown out of Boneville and must find a new place to live.



**HERO RATING:** \*\*\*\*

#### H.I. PICK

A first printing of this book is extremely hard to find. Bone is gaining popularity with every issue. This one is definitely the next Cerebus. expect to see Bone guest-starring in Spawn before too long. Very hot, with high demand.

## DEALER PICK

Independent and black and white-no mass appeal here. Or is there? A fun story and a must read for everyone who's tired of all the comics looking the same. The characters are great form the beginning... Everyone on the planet should be reading this comic now! Low early print runs make it a great collectible."

# TOP TEN SKELFTONS IN COMIC CHARACTER CLOSETS

Ever wander what were the most embarrassino moments of your favorite character's life? Here's e few our roving reporters dison words

10 Bruce Renner\_three numle pants that clashed with his emerald skin

9. Dick Grayson—called "boy wonder" throughout college years.

8. Archie-been striking out with Veronica for 50 years

7. Steve Rogers-owes mega back taxes for years he was frozen in lee

6. Bruce Wayne-times he was caught drinking wimpy ginger ale instead of

5. Pluto-the only mute Disney charecter es a result of baing the love child of Gooty and Minnie

4. Peter Parker—the Spidermobile (that says it

3. Scott Summers-eye beam holes in the center-folds of his favorite mags.

2. Clark Kent—first job he epplied for in Metropolis—sanitation worker.

1. Spawn-went to Image cause Disney turned him down flat.

#### 31 Cave Cerson 100 00, 100 00 00.00 750.00 750.00 1et S.A. Hawkman 230 00 330 00 OF DE U-sulman 116 00 116 00 38-30 100.00 100.00 \*\* 72 03 79 00 73.00 70.00 40 11.... 112.00 12.00 42 Hawkman 120.00 110.00 44 Howkman 110.00 110.00 44 40 27.00 27.00 27.00 27.00 40 40 27.00 75.00

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# **BRAVE & THE BOLD #57**

Publisher:	DC
tssue No.:	#57
Writer:	Bob Haney
Artist:	Ramona Frader
Inker:	Unknown
Cover Price	2: 120
Current Lor	w Price \$83.00
Current Hig	h Price: \$83.00

Overview: Pra-Batman team-up issue. Metamorpho's first appearance and origin is highlighted.



# **HERO RATING:**

H.I. PICK

Interesting character that DC has made into a jerk latety (one of many), so his first appearance isn't vary sought after. He was atways a second-stringer, and DC's recent treatment of him has guaranteed that he stays one.

#### DEALER PIC

Reading this one gets the feeling DC had an idea for a character but didn't know what to do with him. Stnce then however, Metamorpho had evolved into a really neat part of the DC universa... A difficult book to find in any condition. Early key Silver Age DC is starting to move..."

# HERO CONTEST #171



# WIN DRAGON-FORCE #1

Hear ye, hear yel Step right up and win a copy of this delightful comic! All ya gotta do is write us and tell us your top 10 reasons why you like Spam, Yes, Spam! You can roast it, you can microwave it, you can toast it, you can fricasee it, you can shish-kabob it, but best of all, you can eat it right out of the can! Better yet, make up a theme song, and send it in! Or, better still, make a Spam costume and send us a picture! The person who conveys to us that they love Spam the most wins! Spam, Spam, Spam, Spam, Spam, Spam, Spam, Spam.



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# DRAGONFORCE #1

Publisher: Aircel Issue No.: #1 Writer: Dale Keown Artist: Dale Keown Inker: Dale Keown Cover Price: \$2.00 Current Low Price: \$5.00 Current High Prices \$6.00

Overview: Dale Keown makes his debut with a superhero team called Dragonforce. This issue introduces the team.



**HERO RATING:** \*\*\*\*

H.I. PICK

Highly underpriced, considering what McFarlane and Liefeld's early work is going for. This book is lesser known because it's from a little company, but that means that supply is small because it's not Marvel or DC.

DEALER PICK

A good attempt at meshing comics and games together, it worked for a while...Any find of early Keown work is worthwhile, If only to use as a measuring device. This work is good, his current work Is better, what will tomorrow bring? This looks as promising as Keown's future...

# HERO CONTEST #170



# WIN FLAMING CARROT #1

UTI 'The of' carrot top's first issue is one fine read, but gatting tough to locate. Never heard of him? To quote issue #1, "he has no super powers,... he cannot figure things out with clues... rather than think his way out of a spot he just shoots his way out. His only hole cards are his outer hole cards are his outer appearance that confuses and confounds his enemies, his dogged determination to flight on at all odds and his James Bondish good luck." That about says it all. Now, wanta with one? Answer the following questions:

1. What's his uncle's name?

2. What children's toy does ha rida around in?

3. What team of superharoes did he belong to?

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# FLAMING CARROT #1

Publisher: Aardvark/Van. Issue No.: Writer: Bob Burden Artist: Bob Burden inker: Bob Burden Cover Price: \$2.00 Current Low Price: \$30.00 Current High Price: \$40.00

Overview: After other appearances, the Flaming Carrot starts his own series in comic book form.



HERO RATING: \*\*\*

H.J. PICK The Carrot Is one of those series where you either love it, or you just don't get it. The print runs on any FC comic aren't big. Burden has vowed never to reprint any issue, so the time to buy them is now.

### DEALER PICK

"Funny stuff. Comics need more wacky ideas with something to laugh at. A good cartoon basis...Little demand. More exposure for the UT! man would help...One of the few early independents you shouldn't pass up if you see one for sale."



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Dark Horse

1.95 1.95

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HERO TIP:

#### 3.00 8.00 3.00 **FLAMING CARROT** 40 00 28 00 20.00 13.00 9.00 4.00 3.50



# FLASH #1

Publisher: DC Issue No.: Writer: Mike Baron Artist: Jackson Guice Inker: Larry Mahistedt Cover Price: \$.75 Current Low Price: \$4.00 Current High Price:

mentor, Barry Allen.

Overview: Wally Wast. the ex-Kid Flash, dons **HERO RATING:** tha costuma worn by his

Now he's really hungry H.I. PICK

Lots of these are floating around, so potential is minimal. No real changes were made, other than the need for food thing. Wally West will always be "Kid Flash" for those who remember Barry. Self-centered heroes aren't cool.

# DEALER PICK

"Flash comics were fairly good sellers when the series was on TV, first 10 issues or so still sell OK

As far as investment goes, this book is not a big deal, but Flash has been a very good, solid series since it began in 1987...One of the better revamps DC did on any character they did that year...



# **HFRO** CONTEST



# WIN INCREDIBLE HIIIK #368

To win Sam Kieth's version of the Hulkster, just send in the correct answers to the questions below. But first a mini Top 10

TOP TEN WORST COLORS FOR THE HULK 10. Aqua-blue

the Marvel Universe) 7. Marcon 8. Mauve

Paisley

4. Neon Orange

2. Beige Fuchsia Now, the trivia How many colors has the Hulk been in his career?

2. What color was Betty's wedding dress when she married Bruce Banner?

3. What's Hulk's favorite

color?

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73	2.00	2.00
74-75	2.00	2.50
76-81,82	1.25	1.25
80	2.50	250
Direct, fail cor	ver	
81-84	1.25	1.25
Annual 1	1.25	2 00
Annual 2	1.50	1.75
Annual 3	1.75	1.75
Annual 4	2.00	2.00
Annual 5, 6	2.50	2.50
Special 1	3.00	3.00
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INCREDIBLE **HULK #368** 



Overview: The night-Hulk and Hyde are on a train together, with Hyde wanting to kick Hulk's green butt.

#### **GREEN LANTERN CORPS QUARTERLY**

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**HERO BATING:** \*\*\*

H.I. PICK

Peter David story is good, as usual, but Sam Kleth's first work at Marvel is the selling point. In the middle of Keown's run, the book did nothing. However, if Kieth continues to get hotter, this could peak.

**DEALER PICK** 

"Even coupled with Peter David, the decline of potential on this comic can't be saved. Kieth isn't as hot as the scam-meisters pretend he is...Not even Sam Kieth, whose work here is abstractly appropriate to the subject matter. Don't expect this to be much of an investment, but do look for it."



# **HERO** CONTEST #174



# WIN **LOVE 8** ROCKETS

Boy, do we have a contest for you. No trivia, no themes, no action figures, just ... odors. That's right, send us a postcard with the odor you think the Love & Rockets world would smell like and we'll award a copy of the first issue to that lucky, smelly soul Remember, we'll have to smell a lot of these, so be sure and make them nice and strong. Get out your sister's perfume. Confiscate your dad's decdorant. Use that scientific knowledge you gained in science class (but nothing lethel, please.) And you wondered what we'd come up with to make our mailperson dislike us even more.

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#### Manual 6.00 10.00 2 00 a hn 2.00

2.00

# **LOVE AND ROCKETS #1**

Publisher **Fantagraphics** Issue No.: 21 Writer: Gilbert & Jalme Artist: Hernandez laker: Hernandez Bros. Cover Price \$3.95 Current Low Price: \$45.00 Current High Price: \$50.00

Overview: Hodgepodge of stories ranging from sci-fi to urban confusion, all by 'Bert & Jaime Hernandez



HERO RATING: \*\*\*

# H.I. PICE

First printings of this magazine-sized book are rare, almost impossible to find. Several reprintings have made this accessible to a larger audience, however, and the people who like it aren't usually fussy about tirst printings.

# DEALER PICK

"This book goes for 50 percent of what it did six or seven years ago. The magazine size and erration schedule have hurt this book. One of the best "Alternative" comics available... Another cult book. We don't even have one. If you find the right person it's worth a lot of money otherwise it collects dust."



# HERO CONTEST #175



# WIN MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER #1

Magnus #1, being a Gold Key comic, is getting really tough to find at any price. Know what that means? It meens we're going to want something special from you to win this comic. It means it's time to put on your thinking caps and music voices and come up with a theme song for the big M. It can either be using an existing song modified to your benefit, like so many commercials do with songs these days, or — better yet — something original. Remember, we're judging on originality, as well as quality. The other catch is that we want it on tape. We want to hear what you've come up with, so get into that karaoke spirit and sing, sing, sing. And remember. you can have this comic for a song. (Ow.)

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171	3.50	3.50
172-199	2.25	2.25
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201-224	1.50	1.50
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226-243	1.50	1 50
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# MAGNUS

Publisher: Gold Key Issue No.: ±ή Writer Unknown Artist **Russ Manning** lnker: **Russ Manning** Cover Price: 12¢ Current Low Price: \$130.00 Current High Price: \$250.00

Overview: Magnus, the man bred to fight evil robots, is introduced to Leeia Klane, as we learn his origins



HERO RATING: \*\*\*

#### H.I. PICK

Magnus' first run was nothing short of brilliant. and being a Gold Key comic, is getting tough to find in any shape. Prices soared when Valiant's Magnus hit the scene, but have calmed down. Still has potential to go higher.

### DEALER PICK

These titles damand more money than the Vallant line, good to see someone catching on... Never had one in my stora, that's how rare they are... Ahead of It's time, it's surprising that it lasted as long as it did. This is a book to read and enjoy, with or without the aid of nostalgla-colored glasses."



# **HERO** CONTEST #176



# WIN MARVEL FANFARE

Okay, time to tell some stories. If you want this puppy, we must be amused. Wri in and telt us your best April Fool or practical joke Remember the time you tied your little brother up and left him for three days? How about when your big sister called in sick for work and you called her office with the story that you were plenning to go shopping with her, causing her to get fired? Or when you convinced your dad there were UFOs in the sky, and had him call 911 to have the police errest the illegal aliens? O.K., maybe you didn't do these nasty deeds but let us know what you did do and got away with scott tree.

#### 1st JSA X-over 148.00 140.00 23.08 45.00 45.00 20.30 53.00 53.00 1st App. S A. Starman, 29 30.00 30.00 Hawkman joins JLA 32 28.00 28.00 1st App. Brain 33 24.00 24.00 30 00 30.00 35-36 23.00 23 00 37-38 44.00 44 00 39 25 00 25.00

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48-50	4.00	6.00
51-53	3.00	4.00
54-81	2 25	3,50
62	7,00	9 00

# MARVEL **FANFARE #15**

Publisher:	Mervei
Issue No.:	#15
Writer:	Various
Artist:	Various
Inker:	Various
Cover Price:	\$1.50
Current Low Price:	\$2.00
Current High Price:	\$3.00

Overview: Issue is led off by Barry Windsor-Smith story involving practical jokes between the Thing and Torch



**HERO RATING:** \*\*\*

#### H.L. PICK

Barry Windsor-Smith has picked up popularity with today's readers with Archer & Armstrong, but older works are still unknown. Fanfare lost some steam after its start, but this is one to look tor, due to good art and an amusing story.

# **DEALER PICK**

"So it's got Barry Windsor-Smith. So what? This book sells at cover price, but can also be tound in many bargain bins...Great Barry Smith art as usual and a very good and amusing story... A barely recognizable Smith story that is fun! Grab your copy now, before word gets out."



# KEITH GIFFEN'S TOP TEN OVERUSED INDUSTRY PHRASES

Wharldus know? Our first celebrity top 10 list! Keith sends us his top 10 from the "If I never hear it again. it'll he ton soon" dent

10. OVER THE TOP (Kelth share of the blame for that

9. GRIM AND GRITTY (only in comics could that be considered a selling buy the "new, grim and grit ty '94 Sierra from Olds"?

8. HOT (read: over-printed)

7. FOIL STAMPED (a bargain at twice the price)

6. HOMAGE TO...(as in. gee, that stuff looks pretty

5. 'NUFF SAID (in that case, shut upl)

4. OUR VERSION OF... (X-Men, Punisher, Batman, Lobo, ad nauseum)

3, CUTTING EDGE (see #4)

2. CROSSOVER (it's simple, really, just basic math. 1 solid seller + 4 dogs =)

1. DEATH (isn't killing a character to enhance sales kind of like killing a patient to expedite recovery?)

Thanks, Keith!

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#### WARVEL SUPER-ACTION Marvel 4 Dunchas

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2	3.00	3.00

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	Mervel	
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15	12.00	20.00			
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53 Hulk, X-Men	14 00	14.00
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56-57	4.00	4.00
56-60	6 00	
61-70,75	4 00	4 00
71-74	3.50	3 50
76-78,80	3 50	3.50
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28-40	4.00	4 00
41-42	2.00	2.00
43 Byrne art	2.50	2 50
44-45	2.00	2 00
46,50	2.50	2 50
47-49	2 00	2.00
51-52	3.00	3.00
53,55	2.50	2 50
54	8.00	17 00

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56-60	1.50	1.50
81-63	3.00	3 00
64-88	1.50	1.50
69	5.00	5.00
70-79	1.50	1.50
60 Ghost Rider	6.00	8 00
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3.00 5 00 1 2nd print 1.00 1.00 2.00 3.00 3.7 1.50 8.74 1,50 52-53 2nd print 1.00 1.25 75 1.00 2.25 78-84 1.00 1.75

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Marvel 5.00 2.5 2.00 2.00 6-11 1.50 2.00 12 2.00 2.00 13-22 1.00 2.00 23-25 1.50 2.00 26 Jae Lee 10.00 18 00

# PREZ

85.00 85.00

Publisher: DC Issue No.: #1 Writer: Jae Simon Artist: Jerry Grandenetti Inker: Jerry Grandenetti Cover Price: \$.20 Current Low Price: \$1.00 Current High Price: \$3.00

Overview: First teen president runs country in a groovy, early '70s kind of way.



**HERO RATING:** 

## H.L. PICK

Due to his recent appearance in Sandman. fans may search out this title, but the series isn't really meaningful unless you lived in the time, and even then, it's hit-or-miss. Appeal for this title is purely nostalgic

### DEALER PICK

Another low volume book DC completists will figure out and buy...in tive years, all those weird DC titles of the 1970s will be at least \$10 ... Are you kidding? A teen-age president? It could happen, i think Dan Quayle would become president tirst, maybe not."



# READER WORST

"Aw, Man! Not Him Again!" If I Have To Hit You One from Tim Hall Mt Dora El

"A Is For Alabama B Is For "Toasters Of War" from Manuel Torres Lakewood N.I.

Misterl"
"Why Are We Fighting It
You've Died Twice?"
from Josh Eriksen
Wearen, NH

"If You Don't Like it... Lougn: from Luis Tur Hoboken, NJ

"Revenge Of The Sticky ered Ner "Attack Of The People Who Wrap Birthday Presents With So Much Tape That They Can't Be Opened and, in case they decide to kill Superman again, "This Milk Tastes Funny" from Gordon son with the longest last name we've ever printed

"Invasion of the Killer Crahs From Uranus<sup>a</sup> from Frank Lloyd Jr Richwood, WV Believe us, if you ever have such an invasion, you'll have to be completely shaven in order to get rid of

Send in some more story

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3	12.00	12.00	
4-9	9.00	9.00	
10-11	7.00	7.00	
12-19	1.00	1.00	
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2-28	1.50	1.50	
Regrint series1-6	2.00	2.00	
New story by Kirby, 6			



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2-3	3.00	4 00
4-20	2.00	3.00
1st App. New V		00
21 Double size	4.50	6.00
22-51	2.00	2.50
52-58	1.50	3.00
59	4.00	5.00
60-62	1.00	3.00
63 X-Men	3.00	4.00
64 72	1.50	2.00
73	1.50	2.50
74	1.50	2.00
75-80	1.50	3.00
81	1.00	1.50
82-84	1.50	3.00
85	1.50	4.00
86 Liefeld	10.00	15.00
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87 1st Cable	40.00	
87 '2nd pnnt	2.00	
88	15.00	
89	13 00	
90	10.00	14.00
91	10.00	13.00
92	4.00	10.00
93	12.00	
94-95	9.00	
95 2nd print	3.00	4.00
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6-9	2.75	3.00	
10-15	2.00	2.50	
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1	3.50	4.00	
2-5	2.50	3.00	
6-10	2.00	2.50	
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1-8	1.00	1.50	

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9 Lobo	4.00	5.00
10	7.00	10.00
11-16	0.50	1.00
19 Labo	1.00	1.50
20 Lobo	6 00	9.00
21-36,36	0.50	1.00
37 Labo	2.50	3.00
Annual 1	1.00	1.50
Annual 2	1.00	1.50

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# **PAGIFIC PRESENTS**

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1 Hocksteer	7.50	12 00
2	3 00	5.00
3-4	2 50	2 50
PENC	MAGON	
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1	1.50	1 50
2-13	1.25	1.25

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	40.00	50.00
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1	16.00	16.00
5-7	10.00	10 00
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2-3	15.00	15.00
4	16.00	16.00
5-7	10.00	10 00
6-14	7.00	7.00
15-19	5.00	5.00
20-41	3.00	3.00
Limited Series		
1-4	1.25	1.25

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6.00 10.00 One shot story on Phoenix

PITT 1 Dale Keown 5.00 10.00 1.95

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17	12.00	12 00
16-20	7 50	7 50
21-31	5.00	5.00
32-50	3 50	3 50
51-56	1.75	1 75
57 X-Men	6.00	6.00
58-60	1.75	1.75
61-65,67	1.25	1,25
66 Sabrelooth	16 00	32 00

#### **POWER MAN AND** IRON FIST

Ma	irvel	
66-77	1.25	1,25
76 Sabretooth	12.50	25 00
79-63	1.25	1.25
84 Sabrelooth	11.00	15.00
65-124	1.25	1.25
125	2 50	2.50
Annual 1	4.50	4.50

# **POWER PACK**

Marvel				
1	2.25	2.25		
2-16	1.00	1.00		
19,27	7.50	7.50		
20-26	1.00	1.00		
29	2.50	2.50		
26,30-45	1.00	1.00		
46	2.50	2.50		
47-62	1.00	1.00		
Holiday Special	12.25	225		

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1 2nd print	7.50	7.50
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Summar Spec. 2 3.00 3.00

No Escape 1

G-Force 1

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6.00 6.00 7.50

10.00

# SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #1

Publisher: Marvel Issue No.: Armual #1 Writer: Various Artist: Various lnker-Various Cover Price: \$1.75 Current Low Price: \$7.50 Current High Price: \$7.50

Overview: The Silver Surfer takes part in the Evolutionary War. Ron Lim does his first art on the Surter



HERO RATING:  $\star\star$ 

### H.L. PICK

The Evolutionary War was not the reason to pick this book up in the first place. The reason was because of Ron Lim doing e great job on the Surfer Dude. And it is his first time doing him so fans are on the lookout for this book.

# DEALER PICK

For the first time, the Surfer actually looked silver. This alone (and I do mean alone) makes this book worth looking for... Overall a good story, but is caught up in the Evolutionary War. The Surfer once again is shown as Stan Lee always showed him, the most noble of beings."



# **HERO** CONTEST #177



# WIN STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

2 3-9 PUZ

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1 Jim L 3-4,7

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ATTENTION TREKKERS: comic that's right up your alley. To get this logical addition to your collection, you have three options:

1. Orbit the sun really fast to go back in time to 1987 and pick one up off the

friend's copy and beam it to your house, then duplicate the beam to send it back to his/her house

3. Make up fyrics to the old Star Trek theme song and send it in to HERO.

How's that for a contest cooler than Tribbles?



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STAR TREK NEXT GENERATION

Publisher: DC Issue No.: #1 Writer Michael Carlin Artist: Pablo Marcos Inker: Garzon/Starr Cover Price: \$1.50 Current Low Price: \$5.00 Current High Price: \$15.00

Overview: Paramount's then new show gets its own 6-issue mini-series to see if it merits a reqular monthly series.

HERO TIP: -018 SERVICE .

HERO RATING: \*\*\*\*

H.I. PICK

ST:TNG is one of the hottest shows on tv. and this is the last season before making the feature films. If there is one lesson to be learned from time, it's that Trekkers are fanatical collectors, and will pay any price for Trek items

DEALER PICK

We just can't keep them In stock! Continued popularity of ST properties keeps this book moving. Watch what It does when the ST:NG movie comes out...Smart Idea those DC people had. Wish I could sell one to every Trekkie ... This book moves itself so quickly off the well. This being final TV season will make people search for it."



# HERO CONTEST



## WIN STAR WARS

Star Wars is one of the alltime greatest movies there is. So why hasn't anyone come up for a name for the legion of fans out there who are in love with this genre? Fans of Star Trek are Trekkers, people who are nuts about Dr. Who are Whovians, so what do you call Star Wars fans? Write and tell us to win, plus answer these questions.

1. What ship is Luke playing with in Star Wars while C-3PO is taking his bath?

2. Where did Han run into a bounty hunter that made him want to leave in the beginning of Empire?

3. Who is the other X-wing pilot basides Luke to make it in all 3 movies?

4. Which bounty hunter is killed at Cloud City in Empire Strikes Back (this one's a toughte)

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## STAR WARS #1

Publisher: Marvel Issue No.: #1 Writer: Roy Thomas Howard Chaykin Artist: Inker: Howard Chaykin Cover Price: 30€ Current Low Price: \$10.00 Current High Price: \$17.00

Overview: George Lucas' blockbuster movie is adapted in the first six issues of this ongoing series



**HERO RATING:** \*\*\*

## H.I. PICK

Everyone who grew up seeing Star Wars on the big screen already has this classic, but newer fans are getting hyped by Dark Empire and the book trilogy. This series will be sought after when the next film trilogy is released.

#### DEALER PICK

"This book will be around forever, hot or not, if the movie comes out, it will regenerate a new audience...No movement, only sells because of the fans who would much rather have a cheap 2nd 3rd print than the 30¢ Issue... Beginning to sell back issues again thanks to Dark Horse."



## HERO CONTEST #179



## WIN **SUPERMAN** #423

Let's have some fun.

Return with me now, to a happier time. A time when Superman clied annually, and was resurrected in the very same issue. A time when there was Superboy, Krypto, the super-pet, the bottled city of Kandor, and the first f fun, fun, fun! Answer the following questions to win one of the best Superman stories ever written

three of the Super-pets.

2. Everyone knows about green kryptonite, of course However, there were quite a few varieties of kryptonite in the old days, Name three different types of kryptonite and the effect they had on the Man of Steel

3. Tell us why Lex Luthor hates Superboy/man.

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108-110	3.00	3 50
111-115	2.50	3.00
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120-129	2.50	3 00
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144-145	2.00	3.00
146	3.00	5.00
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189 Hologram	9.00	10.00
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190-194	1.50	1.50
195	1.50	2.50
195-205	1.25	1.25
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121-128 129.138 130-137 139-140 4.00 141-146 3.00 4.00 147 10 00 148-155 4.00 3.00 156,165 6.00 8.00 157-164 3.00 4 00

## SUPERMAN #423



Overview: Alan Moore writes the "last" Supes story in a 2-parter that quest-stars everyone in the Superman mythos



**HERO RATING:** \*\*\*

## H.I. PICK

After Byrne's revamping of this icon, very few of the older comics have been in demand. This is one book that all fans should and eventually will seek out. The story is outstanding, the art is fun, and it ties all the early threads together.

## DEALER PICK

Along with Action #583, this qualifies as the 2nd greatest Superman story ever told (after the latest Doomsday/Funersl/Reign). If the entire series were handled this well, the revamping wouldn't have been necessary...One of the best Superman stories ever written and criminally Ignored by the populace.

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## TALES TO **ASTONISH #35**

Publisher: Marvel Issue No.: #35 Writer: Stan Lee Artist-Jack Kirby Inker: Unknown Cover Price: 12€ Current Low Price: \$800,00 Current High Price: \$900.00

Overview: Second appearance of the Ant Man is the first appearance of him in costume.



**HERO RATING:** \*\*\*

### H.I. PICK

This is a classic example of the early Marvel characters who started in books that weren't their own. However, the Antster never got his own series, even after founding the Avengers. so first appearance is more desirable.

## DEALER PICK

"Overpriced! Ant Man is a weak and unpopular character. Limited potential dependent on age and scarcity...Not one of Stan's more original concepts. Still, as part of the dawning of the Marvel universe, this is an important book...#35 and any others are very hard to come by In any condition.

# vice auto

CHOST OF A CHANCE Mannage

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## TERMINATOR #1

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Publisher: Now Issue No.: #1 Writer: Fred Schiller Artist: Tony Akins lnker: Jim Brozman Cover Price: \$1.75 Current Low Price: \$20.00 Current High Price: \$24.00

Overview: It's after the tirst Terminator film, set in the future with the focus on John Conner's battle with Skynet.



**HERO RATING:** 

H.I. PICK

Now did with the Terminator what Marvel did with RoboCop, namely washed him out and changed him for mass appeal. This movie tiein doesn't follow the tilm's direction at ail, and as a comic has a lame story with so-so art.

## DEALER PICK

"Terminator, Aliens and Predator are our best seiling movie adaption comics. Now comic versions of Terminator are hard to keep in back stock... As comics based on movies go, this is extremely average. if not for Termintator's box office record, this book would have been dead in the water,"

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157,159-161	4.00	6.00
162	6.00	10.00
163-164	4.00	6.00
165-170	5.00	7.00
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185,187-192	3 00	4.00
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## X-TERMINATORS 2.50 2.50

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0 Gold	35.00	75 00
0	2.25	5 00
1 Rob Liefeld	6.00	15.00
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1st App. Shad	lowhawk,	
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2 Pink logo	8.00	10.00
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> ZANTANA DC Comics 1.95 1.95



## X-MEN #9

Publisher: Marvel Issue No.: #9 Writer Stan Lee Artist: Jack Kirby Inker: Chic Stone Cover Price: \$.12 Current Low Price: \$125.00 Current High Price: \$165.00

Overview: The X-Men first meet the Avengers, so naturally they have to fight each other like Marvel superheroes do.



**HERO RATING:** \*\*

### H.J. PICK

The early X-Men are a decent value, but readers today want Wolverine, Gambit and Bishop. As always, early Marvels are a long-term investment, a slice of history as opposed to the latest hot books.

## DEALER PICK

"Vintage Marvel as the Avengers and X-Men meet of course a battle must be fought...Will the 30th Anniversary crossover help this? Probably not...A vastly overlooked and underpriced book!... A triedand-true (and dull) formula for a meeting of two teams. Still, It's future is predictable."

# COMING TO YOUR TOWN...

A Listing of Conventions and other Comic-related Events for November, 1993

If you are planing a comic-related convention, send your information in advance to:

convention editor e/o HERO JLLUSTRATED 1920 Highland Ave. Suito 222 Lombord, JL 60148

Doadline for December shows is Friday, Novombor 12th



UNITED STATES

Arkanese 27th, Min Home, Comic and Card Expo Show; Pameda Inn, 1127 Hwy 62E, 10am-6pm; \$1; Mike Miles, 501-492-4144 or 501-425-6246

Catifornia
2, 9, 16, 23 & 30th, Suhnyvate Tuesday Cerd & Comic
Book Sndw, Mepletree Inn., 711 E. El Camino Rest, 49pm; Free; Miss or Dabbie, 415 905-8980 or

 10, 17 & Z4th, Walnut. Comic Book, Saseball Card, McDenield & Rading Colectibles Show; Frank & Son Werehouse, 19455 E. Walnut; 5-9:30pm; Free; Frank or Jim, 909-594-7492

 12, 19th, Mribrae. Findey Card & Comic Book Show; Contlort Inn, 1396 El Gamino Reat; 2-9pm; Free; Mike or Debble. 415-905-8860 or 415-957-8740.

Sth-7th, (And Every Weekond of the Month) San Jose. Medition Card & Come Expo. Day Dreak Shopping Center, 1712 Mendata Ave. Fri 5-9 30pm, Sat. 10am-8pm, Sun. 10am-5pm; Free, Mee, 408-287-0927. 6, 13, 14, 20 & 27th, Walnut, Corro Book Baseball Card, McCornid & Racing Collectibles Show, Frank & Son Wirelfouse, 19/65 E. Walnut; 10am-5pm; Free; Frank, 909-394-7492.

6th & 7th, San Francisco Corni; Bodk & Cerd Show, Cathedral Hdl Hobel, 1101 Van Ness Ave, Sal. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm; \$2 (Under 8 Free), Al Jang, 415-386-9036

7th & 20th, Palo Aho. Blowout Show; Hyati Rickey's Hotel, 4219 El Camino Rest; 10am-8pin, \$1; Mike or Debble, 415-905-8860 or 415-952-6240

12th, San Dingo Mira Mesa Comio & Card Show; Scottish Ribi Center, 1896 Cardino Del Rio South; 5:30-9:30pm, \$1.50 (Under 7 Free); Ron De Nandad, 519-859-1759.

13th, San Bruno, Blowout Card & Corric Book Show, Courtyard Marrott 1050 Bayhill & El Carrino Real, 10sm-6pm, Free Admission (if you mention HERO); Mike or Debble, 415-905-8880 or 415-952-6240

13th, San Diogo Mira Masa Conro & Card Show Holiday Irin, 9385 Keumey Mesa Rd 5,30-9 30pm, 31 50 (Under 7 Free); Ron DeNatidad, 619-689-1759. 13th, San Diago San Diego's Greatest Mira-Con 1895 Camino Del Ro South In Mission Valley, 10am-4pm;

S3, \$2.50 w/ad, Jeff, 619-273-7048.

13th, San Luis Obiepa, Superior Corrios, Baseball Cards & Cofectibles Show, Call Poly U. University Livra (2017) (1.0m/Sprs. Pages 1617) (1.0m).

13th & 14th, Chatrworth Sports Cards, Comics & Coln Collectibles Extravagenza; Mason Recreation Center, 10500 Misson Avo. 10am-5pm; \$1; Jummy,

14th, Psimdale, DMD Comic & Card Show: Holiday line, 38630 5th St. West, 10am-Spm; Free, David Trestreil, 805-723-6892.

14th, San Meteo Conic Book & Card Show; Dunfey San Mateo Hotel, 1770 S. Amphielt Blvd. (Hwy 101 at Hwy 92); 10am-4pm, \$2 (Under 8 Free), Al Jang, 415-386-9036

19-21st, Los Angeles. Lavacon Contros and Game Convention; LAX Hilton; 24 hours, \$5, Nick, 818-773-7957.

21e1, Buena Park Oranga County Comic, Non-Sport Carda & Collectibles Show, Saquola Albieto Club, 7530 Orangathorpa Ava, 10azn-4prir, \$3; Decek, \$18-913-4046. 21, 26 & 27th, San Experison, Card & Chemic Blowset-

Holiday Inn Union Square, 460 Sutter & Powell; 10ambpm on 21st \$1; 10em-8pm 26 & 27th Free, Mike or Debbe 415-905-6880 or 415-982-6240. 21et, Sen Francisco San Francis-Con #9, Holiday Inn

Golden Galeway; 10xm-4pm, \$2 (Under 6 Free), Al Jang, 415-386-9036 27th, San Dieso, Mira Mesu Crimic & Carri Show: 1 a

Mesa Women's Club, \$220 Wilson St; 5:30-9pm..\$1.50 (Under 7 Free), Ron DeNetded, 619-669-1759.

21el, Denver Comic Convention; Holiday Inn Aliport, I-70 mml 276 at 4040 Quebec St; Reality Conventions 703-427-1901.

Connecticut 21st, Shelton, Comic Book Shoer, Ramada Inn, Enl 12 off R1 8; 10sm-4pm; \$3 (Undar 5 Free); J. DeFelios, 203-331-4345 or 617-923-3092

Deleware 21st, Wimington. Comic Convention; Hillon, I-95 at 630 Nasman's Rd; Reality Conventions, 703-427-1901.

Floride 12th, Orlando: Christmus: Comro Book Mega-Show; Holiday Inn, 6815 International Dr; 10am-5pm; \$2.50; James Breitbell, 407-426-7745.

14th, Mlami. Comic Convention; Holiday Inn Coral Gables, 2051 LeJeune Rd, Reality Conventions, 703-427-1901.

20th, Jacksonville Comic Convention; Holiday Inn. Airport, I-95 at Airport Rd, Realty Conventions.

20th & 21 al , Jacksomille. First Coast Comicon 93,

5865 Arkington Expy, 10am-8pm, \$5; Absolute Comics & Cardis, 904-744-1985.

21st, Orlando Comic Convention; Holiday Inn Airport, Rts. 436 & Beetine Expy, Reskly Conventions, 703-427-1901.

28th, Pt. Lauderdale, Comics, Toys & Collectibles Show: Airport Hitton, 1-95 & Gniffn Rd, 10am-4pm, \$2, Tate's, 205-748-0181

28th, Serasole Serasola-Manatee Fantasy Fair; Holiday Inn Arport, 7150 N Tamash Trail (US 41), 10cm 5cm 52, Yima Machina II, 912,759, 2894

Georgia

13th & 14th, Gemesville Legends Collector's Show;
Leiksshore Mell, Weshington St; 10em-9pm Sat., 128pm Sun , Free; Dana Pinckard, 706-234-8210.

28th, Allanta: Comic Convention: Wyorkham Gerden

29th, Ashmit Comic Convention; Wylcham Cardin Hotel 3340 Peachtree Rd. NE Reality Conventions 703-427-1901. Blinote 7th, Westmoni, Old is Gold Sportscard and Comic

7th, Westmonl, Oto is Gold Sportscard and Comic Show Inland Expo Center 400 E. Ogden Ave. 5-9pm, \$1. Gery, 706-957-4908

14th, Willmette Comic Book & Sports Card Show Masonic Temple of Wilmelle, 1010 Central Ave, 10am-4pm; Free; Joe Jurak, 219-559-4947 14th & 28th, Matteson Old is Gold Sportscard and

Come Show; Holiday Inn, 1-57 & Rt. 30 5-9 pm; S1; Gary Norman, 708-957-4908 21st, Homelown, Annu-II Boy Scouls Tropp 682 Comics

& Cards Show; Horestown School Gym, B870 Duffy Ave, Sam-Spm, \$1; John Leany, 708-423-1755 21al, Homewood Old is Gold Sportscard and Come Show: Best Winstern, 17400 S. Halated, 5-9 on, \$1

Gary Norman, 708-957-4908.

28th, Hillaide Comic and Card Show, Holiday Inn, I200 Between Wolf & Mannheim; Yourn-3om, \$1,50

Indians
Tith, Hernmond Comic Book & Sports Card Show;
American Inn. 4000 Calumet Ave: 10am-3on; Free Joe

(Ladies Free), Grahem Crackers Comics.

-harak 210,850,4047

7th & 20th, Martinsville, Premier Collectibles Morgan Co. 4-H Bldg., West off Hwy 37 at 252 Intersection; 10am-5pm, Free; Herold or Barbara, 317-631-7003

13th, Evanaville. Premer Collectibles, Holiday Inn, Loydd Expy to Green River Rd 10am-5pm, Free: Harold or Berbers, 317-531-7009 or 317-342-5861,

13th, Michigan City Comic Book & Sports Card Show St. Joseph's Club, 2001 Franklin St, 10am-3pm, Fraa Joe Junek, 219-659-4947.

14th, Crawfordsville Premier Collectibles Holiday Inn, U.S. 231 & I-74, 10em-Spm, Free, Harold or Barbara 317-631-7009.

20th, Hammond Conno Book & Sports Card Show, Quality Inn, 3830 179th St, 10am-Spm; Free; Joe Junek, 219-859-4947.

23rd, Hemmond, Calumel Region Card and Cornic Show, Hammond F.O.P., 7527 Kennady Ava; 9 30sm-2 30pm \$1 (,50 lor 10 and Under), Thomas, 219-865-1563.

27th, Bloomington Premier Collectibles, University Inc., 2601 N. Welnut; 10am-5pm; Freq; Harold or Barbara, 317-831-7009.

27th, Fortage Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Days Inn, 6161 Mellon Rd; 10am-3pm, Freet Joe Jurek, 219-659-4947

29th, Richmond: Premior Collectibles; Holiday Inn, Ext 156-A off I-70; 10am-5pm; Free; Harold or Barbera 317-631-7009

317-631-7009 Kansas

8th & 7th, Kansas City, Comic Book Convention; Jack Reardon Civic Center, 500 Minnesota Ave, 10em-6pm; \$4 Sat., \$3 San.; Con Info Line, 816-452-5444

20th, Covington, Northshore Comic Book & Sports Cards Show, Holiday Inn, I-12 H Hwy 190, 10am-5pm; 31, Mile Lynch, 504-768-7499. 21 st, Beton Rouge Molhar of Mercy Council #4650 Spone Card and Corac Book Show; I I 277 Artine Hwy. 9am-5pm; \$2 Adulis, \$1 Children; LeRoy or K.C., 504-293-1558

21 at, Porland. Jessie's Comics Second Comic Showcase, Remada Inn, 1230 Congress St. 9am-3pm, \$5 (\$4 in advance); Jim or Lynn, 207-774-2215

14th, Ballimora Comic Convention: Sheraton, Etm. Road at BWI Airport, Reality Conventions, 703-427-1901

28th, Silver Spring, Comic Convention: Armory Place. 925 Wayne Ave, Reality Conventions, 703-427-1901.

7th, Woburn Comic Book Convention, Howard Johnson Convention Facility, Exil 35 (Rt. 93), Sam-Som: \$1, Bify Hedin, 506-485-6500. 14th, Peabody Comic Book Show; Hallday Inn, JCT Rt. 1, Rt 95, & Rt. 128, 10am-4pm; \$3 (Under 5 Free),

J DeFelice, 203-331-4345 or 617-923-3082, 21st, Natick Comic, Card and Toy Show, Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, Rt. 9, 10em-4pm; \$2 Adults, \$1 Children; Bill or Bob, 508-651-271 0 or 806-655-2499

26th, Boston Comic Convention, Holiday Inn Somerville. 30 Weehington St, Renitty Conventions.

709-427-1-001 14th, Kansae City. Comic Convention, Holiday Inn.

Airport, I-29 Exil I 3; Resity Conventions, 703-427-1901 29th, St Louis Comic Book Show; Kopling House, 4035 Knokuk; I I nm-3 30pm; \$1, Tony, 772-1546 at

Carl 801.0101 28th, St Louis, Comio Convention: Halldey Inn South. I-55 Ext I 97 nt 6921 S. Lindbergh Blvd; Reelity

Conventions, 703-427-1901

13th, Munkegon Sports Cards and Corne Show Aren's Resteraunt 25l I Hall Rd, 9 30s m-4,30cm, Free: Jim Inoceic 61 6-772-4031

I 4th, Royal Oak, Engars-Con Comic Book Show: ican Legion Hall, 1615 Rochester Rd 10am-4pm, \$1.50; Michael Goldman, 313-350-2533.

21 at , Worchester. Comic and Card Show; Holiday Inn, 506 Lincoln St. Exit 20 (Off 1-290), 9am-3pm, \$2 Adults, \$1 Chidren; Tim Savage, 508-755-7148

20th, Claremont Milestones' Parent's Advisory Committee's Comics, Cards, Collectibles & Role Playing Game Con Show; Milestona's Children's Center, Charleslown Rd; 9am-3pm, \$1 (Under 12 Free); Anthony, 603-543-9583

#### 7th, Woodbridge. Four Color Comic Art Convents Sheraton Hotel, 5I 5 Rt. 1 South, 10am-4pm; \$2; Ron Jordan, 908-828-5955

19th, Wayne Wayne Collectors Convention, Piramena Convention Center, I Princip Dr. I Cam-Spin. Frank, Phil DeMerio, 201-695-6217.

14th, Berdentown Four Color Comic Art Conventions Days Inn Hotel, Rt. 206 N. Off Exit 7 of the NJ Toke.

10am-4pm, \$2, Ron Jondan, 908-828-5985 28th, Tinton Falls, Monmouth Co. Comic Book on, Holiday Inn, Parkway Exil 105, 9 30am 4 30pm, S2, Dan Campbell, 908-531-9281

## 51h, Brooklyn, Friday Night Card & Comic Show, Our

# Lady of Grace, 430 Avenue W el East 2nd Street, 5 I I pm; Free, Scotty O'Donnell, 7I 6-251-2075 or

6th, Manhattan. Comic & Card Show; K of C Hall, Bay Ridge Ave. (69th St.) & 10th Ave; 6-I Opm; Free, All Raza Williams, 71 & 592-3611

8th, Brooklyn Comic Show: St. Finbar's Center, Bay 20th & Balh Ave, 10am-5pm; S2 Rob, 71 8-438-6576.

14th, Brooklyn Comic Show, St. Finber's Center, Bay 20th & Baih Ave; I Cam-Spm, \$2; Rob, 71 8-438-6576 27th, Brooklyn Pratt Area's Comic Book & Card Show; St. Luke's Pansh Hall, 259 Washington Ave, I Caro-Som: Free J. Soils 718 783-8837

oprova Park, Massapequa Monthly, 2162 Vehictors Blvd, 10am-4pm; \$1; Joel Kirsch, 816-799-6412

## North Carolina

6th, Wilmington Dragon's Expo Comic & Card Shows Howard Johnson Plaza, 5032 Market St. 9am-4pm; \$2; Dregon's Lair, 606-327-11:37.

7th, Greenville, Cardboard Hero's Comics & Sportscard now; Hilton Inn. 207 SW Gmensile Blvd, Sam-Apm;

\$1.50 (Under 6 Free), Buddy or Bewerly Cetter. 7th, Wilmington Comic and Toy Show; Elks Lodge 5102 Olsander, Dr.; 1Gam-Spm, Wall Bre 91 0.350.N 52

I 4th, Fayettantie. Cardboard Hero's Comos & Sportscard Shew; Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, Cedar Creak Rd, 9sm-4pm; \$1.50 (Under 6 Free), 8uddy or Beverly Caner, 604-231-1969

20th, Burlington Cardboard Hero's Comics & Sportscard Show, Remade Inn. 2703 Ramade Rd. Semxn; S1 50 (Under 6 Free), Buddy or Beverly Certain 804-231-1969 20th, Hickory Dragon's Expo Comic & Card Show

Clement Center, I QLG Hay 321 NW; 9am-4pm; \$2 Dregon's Lee, 608-327-1137, 2) st. Charlotte Comic Convention; Sheraton Airport, I-85 Exil 33; Reality Conventions, 703-427-1901

2) st. Durham, Cardboard Here's Comics & Sportspard Snow, Holiday Inn-West, 3460 Hillsborough Rd; Rum-4cm, St. 50 (Under 6 Free), Buddy or Beverly Carter.

21 st, Stateswille Dragon's Expo Comic & Card Show, Howard Johnson Looge, I 209 Germa Bagnao Blvd. Ext 49-A off I-77, 9em-4om, \$2: Discort a Lait. 27th, Statesville Dragon's Expo Comic & Card Show;

Holdby Inn, 5-40 Clemmens Ext I 64, 9em-4pm; \$2; Dragon's Laur, 808-327-1137. 20th, Grant'sboro, Cardboard Haro's Comics & Sportscard Show, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, 415 Swing Rd, Stim-Spin, \$1.50 (Under 6 Free), Buddy or Beyerly Carter, 804-231-1999

28th, Winelon Salem. Dragon's Expo Comic & Card. Show, Howard Johnson Lodge, 2000 Brennwood St. & I-85, 9em-4pm, \$2, Oregon's Leir, 806-327-I 137.

### I 4th, Columbus Comic Convention; Sheraton, 2124 South Hessiton Rd, Roality Conventions.

703-127-1901 20th, Dayton. Comic Convention; Holiday Inn South,

1-75 Exit 50A at 245S Dryden Rtd, Resity Conventions. 703-427-1901 21st, Cleveland Como Gorvention, Maniott Arport, 4277 W. 150th St. Resity Conventions, 703-427-1901.

21 el, Sharonville Monthly Sports Card and Comic ow: Holday Inn North, 1-75 at Ext 15, 10am-4om: Free; 513-420-9688

21 el, Toledo, Toledo Como Book Show, Ramada Hotal, 2340 Reymolde Rd, I Gam-4pm; SI 50; Michael Goldman, 313-350-2633

21st, Wepskonsta New Image Sportscard and Com Book Show; Kriights of Columbus, I-75 Ext I 131e 25A; I Cam-4cm, 50 cents, Clark, 4I 9-739-4069.

27th & 26th, Columbus Mrd-Ohio-Con; Hyelf Regency, 350 N High St Saturday, 10cm-5pm, Sunday, 10cm-4pm; Roper Price, 419-525-0438.

### 13th, Pittisburgh Come Convention, Greening Maniot, 1-279 exit 4 at I OI Marriett Dr. Resisty Conventions

20th, Feastwille Comic and Cards; Buck Hotel, Bostelton Ave. & Bridgelon Pike, I Dam-4pm; SI Greg.

Pelena 215,000,0077

21st Lanchome Card & Come Show: Sheraton-Bucks County, 400 Oxford Velley Rd, 10am-4pm; \$1; Greg

215-968-8577

8th, Columbia Comic Convention, Quality Inn. I-20 Exil 65 at Broad River Rd, Reality Conventions,

7th, Charleston Comic Convention, Holiday Inn MI Pleasant, US 17 North at Cooper River Bridge, Reelity Conventions 703-427-1901 I 3/h, Greenville Dregon's Expo Comic & Card Show

Howard Johnson Lodge, I-85 Leurens Rd Exit 48-B; 9em-4pm, \$2, Dragon's Lair, 808-327 | 137 14lh, Spansarsburg Dragon's Expo Comic & Card now, Holiday Inn, I-85 Ext 71; 9sm-4pm; \$2, Dragon's

1.elr. 808-327-1137. Yannassee 13th, Henderson Froad-Hardeman U. Collec

aganza; Pruit Banquet Hall, Sam-Spm; Free; Terry Vaneaton, 901-989-2423

27th, Memphis Correc Convention; Adams Mark Hotel, 939 Ridge Lake Blvd; Reality Conventions, 703-427-1901

6th, San Anionio. The Comic and Card Collectible Convention; Embassy Suries Hotel, 7750 Brandga of IH-10; I 0nm-5pm, S3; Richard 210-655-6557.

7th, San Antonio Comic Book Sports Card & Non Spons Card Convention Wyndham Hotel, I-10 A Wutzbach, 10am-5pm; \$2; Mark, 409-295-4353 13th, Houslon Comic Book, Sports Card & Non-Sports

Card Convention; Holiday Inn, 1-10 & Suber (7611 Kary Frwy), I 0am-5pm, \$2. Mark Havinks, 409-295-49-53 20th, Houston Comic Book, Sports Card & Non-Sports Card Convention; Clarion Airport Hotel, 500 N Sam Houston Plwy; 9am-4pm; \$2; Mark Hisvinka,

419,995,4353 20th, Necogdoches Comic Book, Sporis Card & Coin Show; Holiday linn, 3400 South Str 9sm-5pm, Free, Ken Wood 409-564-8294 or 409-569-6511.

21 st, Austin. Comic Book, Spons Card & Non-Sports Card Convention, Embassy Surles Holel, 5901 N IH-35; 10am-5pm, \$2; Mark Hlavinka, 409-295-4353.

Sportscard Show; Best Western S43 Warrenton Rd (Ent 133 off 1-95), 9sm-4pm SI 50 (Under 6 Free), Buddy, 804-231-1969.

7th, Richmond. Comic Convention; Holiday Inn. Crossroads, 2000 Staples Mill Rd, Reality Conventions 703-427-1 901

I 3th, Alexandria, Cardboard Hinro's Comics & Sportscard Show, Quality Inn, 6461 Edsell Rd (Exil 2-A off I-395); Sem-4pm; SI .50 (Under 6 Free), Buddy or Beverly Carter, 804-231-1989

20th & 21 st, Norfolk, Mid-Month Collectors Show; Sheraton Inn. Mirtary Circle Mall; Saturday, 10sm-8pm & Sunday, I 0sm-4pm; Free, Anthony Jimenez,

21 et, Rosnoks Roanoks Valley Comsoon '93; Salam Civic Center, Shanandoeh Ave (Ott Rt. 419); 10am-4pm; S4 Adults, S2 Children; John, 703-992-8629, 27th, Richmond, Cardocard Here's Comics &

Sportscard Show, Comion Inn-Midtown, 3200 W. Broad St., Sam-4pm; St. 50 (Under 6 Free); Buddy or Beverty Center, 804-231-1959. 27th, Vienne Comic Convention; Tyson's Come:

Merriott, 8026 Leesburg Pike, Restity Conventions, 703-427-1 901

#### 7th, Perkersburg, Perkersburg-Mariette Comic Book Convention; Holiday Inn, I-77 at Exit I 76, I 0em-1pm;

\$2 Jell Harper, 216-499-6056. CANADA

I 4th, Montresi World Convention Canada; Holiday Inn Crowns Plaza, 420 Sharbrooke West; I 0am-5pm: \$4, Georgos Hallak, 514-337-8931. Brilleh Columbia 21 st, Vancouver, Vancouver Comicon, Hailtage Hell, 3l 02 Main St; I 1em-5pm, \$2, Leonard. 604-322-6412

HERO ILLUSTRATED 191

Participating
Retailers:
The following stores have provided pricing information ordered to the devision.

Name of the Party

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Flagstaff, AZ.
BULLET PROOF
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CAPITAL CITY COMICS
Milwsukes, WI

CENTER FIELD CARDS & COMICS Endicott, NY CENTRAL CITY COMICS Columbus, OH CLOAK & OAGGER COMICS Caylona Boach, FL COLLECTOR'S COR-

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TOKING, OR
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WORLD
MODEL
MODE

GOLOEN APPLE

COMICS HERO wishes to extend a Los Angalas, CA special thank-you to all of GOOD STUFF our pace guide participants HERO now receives informs ORAHAM CRACKERS tion from over 50 different stores throughout the Unite COMICS States, making the HERO Downers Grove, IL. page quide one of the mos-GRAPHITTI nocurate listings of comic

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF HERO...

# Cover Feature; "PADS, PAWS & CLAWS" A SPECIAL WILDC.A.T.S COVER BY HIM LEE

We give another struggling young artist a break as this Mr. Lee (hey, are you any relation to Stan?) gives us a smashing, action-packed cover based on the characters from his new book, which appears to have developed quite a following. Hey-we're here to help.

# SELF-PUBLISHING: The pleasures-and the pitfalls

So you want to publish your own comic book, ein? It's not impossible-and for some people, it's preferable. Dave Sim, Martin Wagner, Colleen Doran, Jeff Smith, Jo Duffy and many others discuss the pros and cons of running your own show.

## WETWORKS I PREVIEWED:

At last! Whilce Portacio gives us the lowdown on himself and his long-awaited book. What's it all about? Only Whilce-and HERO-can tell you for sure!

## ALAN MOORE: Interview FROM HELL!

He revived the art of comics writing on Swamp Tring. He blew the lid off of superheroes with Watchmen and Miracleman. He took an English suburb and tried to make It into Big Numbers. HERO talks to Alan about his past projects and his future work: the Violator mini-series!

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Gene Colan

The man who opened the legendary *Tomb of Dracula* looks back on his long career, and recalls why he enjoyed drawing *Howard The Duck* and hated drawing *Sub-Mariner* 

## PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE!

HERO #7 includes all the same fun-filled features you've come to know and love-like Hollywood Heroes, Trading Cards, Reviews-and throws in a few new ones as well. Four out of five doctors agree it's an issue you won't want to miss!



# THE FINAL WORD!

## Commentary by Michael Davis

I'm sitting in my hotel room in Philadelphia for Comicfest '93. Supposedly the biggest comic convention inthe United States. Comicfest has had a lot of hype. Major ads in all of the fen press, a fair amount of buzz on the reteil end, TV, radio end billboard advertising. They reelly went ell out.

I didn't want my second HERO article to be about another convention. but Comicfest had some real good and bad points of interest. I'll start from the beginning. First let me say I was not at all happy about being at Comicfest. You'll soon see why. The day and a half Expo part of the con was really lousy. It was like a ghost town.

Everybody in the room was afraid the Expo turnout was an omen of things to come for the fan convention. I came to the Expo with two members of Bad Boys Studios and the Milestone army, Kevin McCarthy and Chris Sotomayor. We drove up in my Ford Explorer, I was feeling kind of bummed out because that morning (Wednesday) my Corvette was stolen. so I was not my normal, chipper self when I got to Comicfest. The turnout at the Expo didn't help either. So I'm kind of pissed ell the way eround. I start thinking "maybe I should pull out of Comictest' like so many others did. At the end of the day we leave to go to our hotel. The convention was on 34th street. My hotel was on 18th street. (BITCH, BITCH, BITCH)

Simple, right? No. I dunno who designed this city but I hope they died a slow and agonizing death. Don't get me wrong, the people of Philly are really nice. But the city itself is the maze from hell. I can see it, 200 years ago the city planner, his assistant standing by his side, saying, "Sir, you have all the streets going one way. And they all lead to dead ends. Also, your two-way streets run into the river and we might want to consider sidewalks that don't run up the side of a building and..." "SHUT UP!" shouts the city planner, "I don't care anymore, this is due tomorrow." I hate this city. How much? I stood in the middle of a crowd on the way to a Phillies' playoff game shouting "Go Braves!" That much.

The next day at the expo was no better. People started getting real worried about the fen convention, I decided to leave my car in the hotel perking

lot and take a cab. They know where they're going, right? No...no they don't. I cen't tell you about the cab ride; when I think of it my nose starts to bleed...again. The second night there, I decided to take Chris and Kevin to see Striking Distance with Bruce Willis. I-T- S-U-C-K-E-D! The only excitement came when this guy in the theater tried to impress his girltriend by confronting Chris. Kevin and myself concerning a comment made during the movie. Now try to remember the kind of week I've been heving. We told him to go away. He didn't, so we killed him. Okay, we didn't kill him, but we should have. Well, now it's Fndey and I'm really anxious about the convention, I had a really greet breakfast, actually the breekfest sucked, but I had a really good conversation with Bob Greenberger of DC Comics. So the day started out pretty well.

At 2:00 when the con opened I really didn't notice any real change from the day before, so at 3pm I went to the debate between Peter David and Todd McFarlane. I figured that the convention was a bust. Concerning the debate, Peter creamed Todd, Not so much because he was better (neither stuck to the debate question which wes "Has Image been given fair treatment in the press?") Peter won because Todd did not have the verbel skills to go up against Peter.

The judges called it etie. Excuse me one second. I have to go FIX my toester, it needs to be FIXED. I'm beck now from FIXING my toaster. A little leter i have to FtX me a sandwich, Todd, however, was a real gentleman by conceding the debate to Peter, calling him the champ. But he also said this type of thing is good for the industry.

One last note on the debate, George Perez was the moderator. It is my opinion that George showed favoritism towerd Peter, George, you don't tell the audience you have to edit a question from Todd or else it won't make any sense. Especially when Peter was pounding away saying Todd wasn't making sense. It's just not right George, I love your work, feel that you are one of the few artists in the industry deserving of the word "superstar", but your moderation leaves a lot to be

When I got back to the booth after



the debate I felt like I was in the wrong place. The room was swimming with people. I felt like a new man, Things were looking up. So what if my car was stolen, so what if Philedelphia streets run one way only, Comicfest was a winner. I felt good, very good until Tony Isabella asked me what popularity level I was. (Popularity Level?) Tony informed me that the conbooklet which was given out to everyone who walked in to Comictest contained a listing of all the professionals by order of populerity. I couldn't believe someone would be that dumb. Tony showed the program and I flipped. According to Comicfest. 31,000 people attended the convention. And 50% of these people according to a survey said they had never attended a comic convention before. So what if the Japanese investors who showed up did not talk to anyone who did not have a high popularity listing. That's why I tlipped. I'm not going to mention the sponsor of the booklet because I talked to their representative end they told me it was a tragic oversight. However, if a retraction of this oversight is not published in their magazine soon I will be more than happy to eddress this situation again

On a lighter note, I would like to thank Tony Caputo, publisher of Now Comics, who took the entire Milestone entourege out to dinner. Tony is without a doubt the best host in the comic book industry bar none. And his books which include The Green Hornet series and Speed Racer are among the best in the industry. Check them out. All in all Comicfest was a huge success, I'm glad Milestone was warmly received end that we have a new pleyer on the convention scene. Congretulations to Devid, Vinnie, and the rest of the Comicfest staff and volunteers. See you next year. Later. A







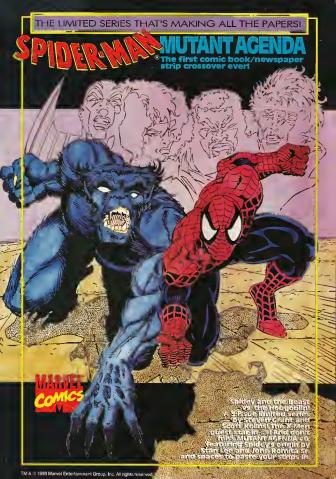
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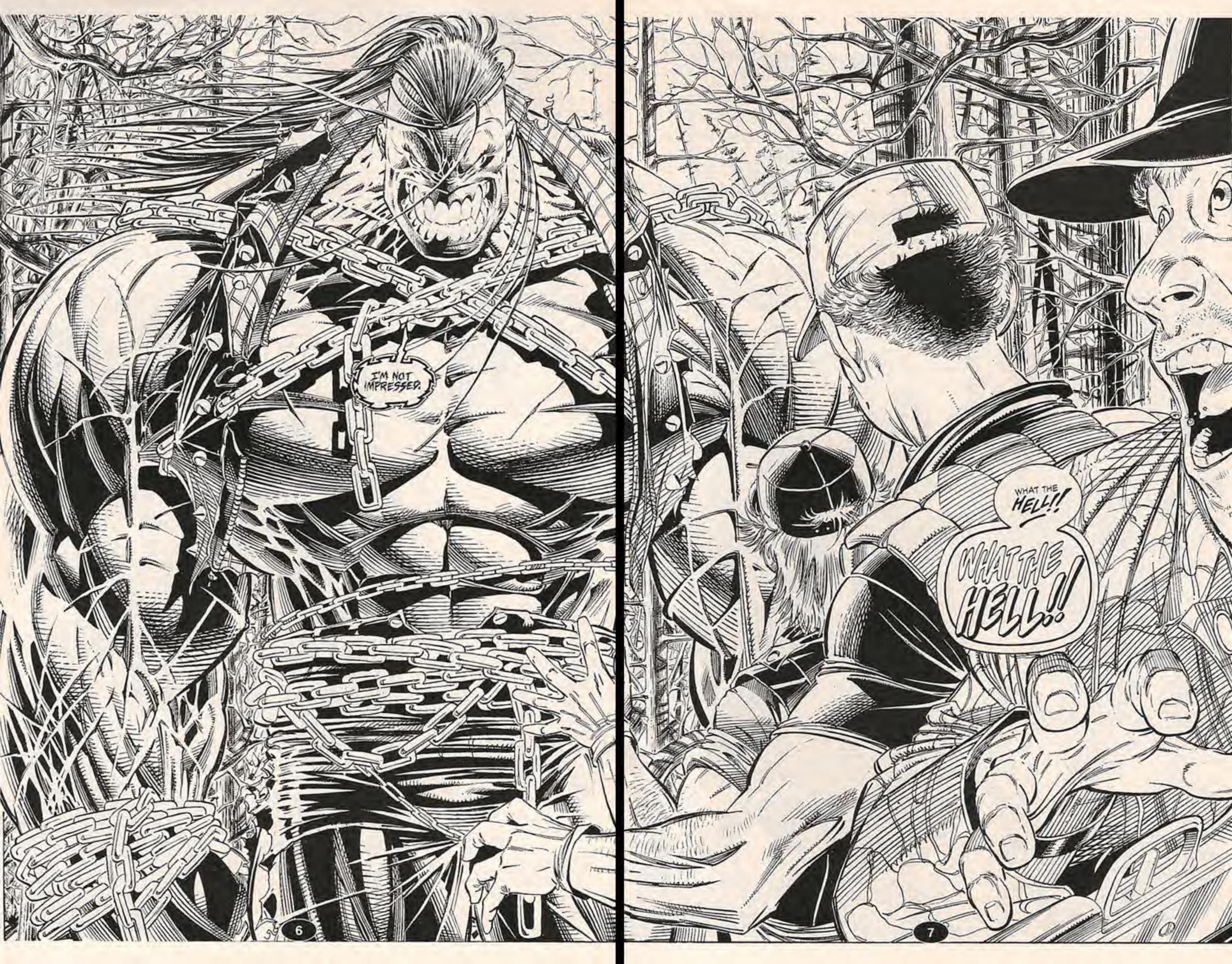














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